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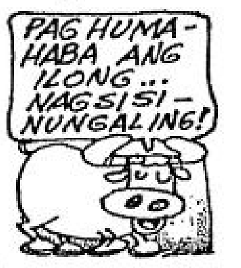
To catch a liar takes wizardry, says study

WASHINGTON—As he lies, the young man shrugs, flutters his eyelids and shakes his head. Another, on a witness stand, grimaces for a millisecond as he answers a question.

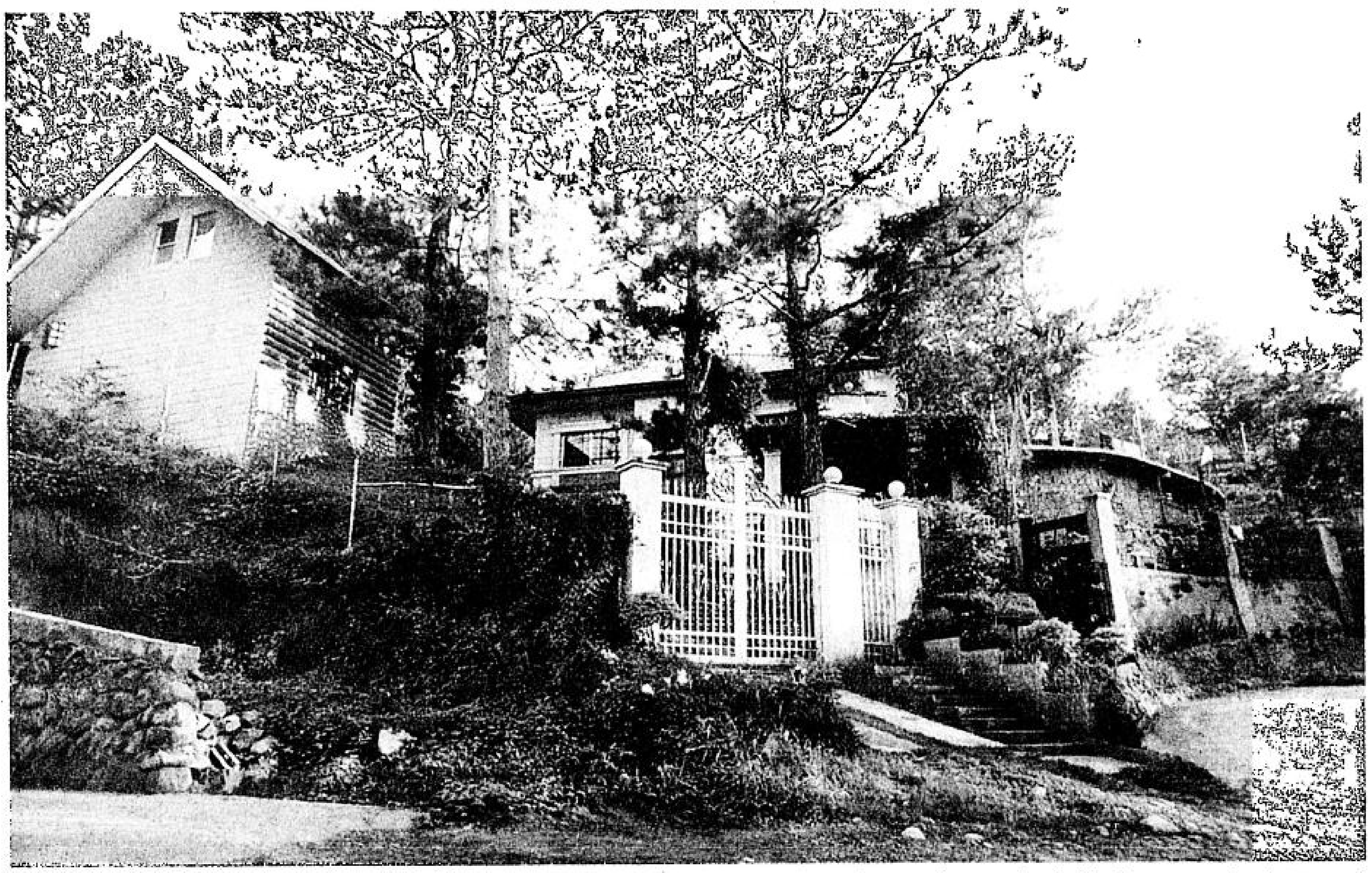


TO CATCH/ A20

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Saturday, October 16, 2004 ★★ 114 pages 15 sections vol. 19 no. 311 P18
website: www.inq7.net

Garcia's US assets on hold

General's properties include 2 New York condos, Ohio house



FOLKS WHO LIVE ON THE HILL. This house on top of the hill (No.7, Cliff Drive) in Barangay Loakan Proper in Baguio City is owned by Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, or so neighbors in the area say. Enclosed by high walls, the property has a gazebo, a main driveway and another at the back. The Garcia summer home is one of several large, three-story houses located on an isolated ridge thick with pine tree cover. To reach the property, one has to drive through the Loakan Airport and negotiate a one-lane road sandwiched between sari-sari stores and small cottages before arriving at the turn toward Cliffside. Those who make it will be impressed by the difference between the main sitio's small houses and the large gated compounds up there. Located in Sitio Ungasan, 100 meters from Fort Del Pilar, the home of the Philippine Military Academy where Garcia graduated in 1971.

VINCENT CABREZA/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

By Philip C. Tubeza, Alcuin Papa and Carlito Pablo

THE GOVERNMENT of the United States has "put on hold" the real estate holdings of Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia in New York and Ohio pending the freeze request of the Philippines' Department of Justice, through the RP-US Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty.

Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo made this announcement yesterday, adding that US authorities were also looking for the former Armed Forces comptroller's other assets there, including bank accounts.

The US Department of Homeland Security has so far identified three Garcia properties—a $765,000 Trump Park Avenue condominium at 502 Park Avenue, New York; a $750,000 apartment at 222 East 34th Street, also in New York; and a house at 625 Vancouver Drive, Westerville, Ohio, of still undetermined value.

"These will be turned over to us once we get [a conviction] against Garcia before our courts. The US is still looking for his other assets," Benipayo said.

On Thursday, the Court of Appeals, acting on a request by the Anti-Money Laundering Council, ordered a freeze on the 40 accounts of Garcia and his family in seven local banks. It also ordered the Land Transportation Office to prevent the sale of the Garcias' eight vehicles.

But before the freeze order was issued, Garcia and his sons managed to withdraw P19 million from their account at the AFP Savings and Loan Association Inc.

Benipayo said he would ask the appellate court to extend its 20-day freeze order when it expires.

In a month or so, he said, the Ombudsman would have finished its investigation and would probably file criminal cases against Garcia before the Sandiganbayan.

GARCIA'S/ A10

Garcia: Zero combat but exposed to millions

By Fe Zamora

CLARITA Garcia was not bragging when she told US authorities that her husband had received "gratitude money" from those awarded military contracts.

In fact, many in the Armed Forces believe that she was just "stating a fact."

The remarks are contained in the sworn statement of Mrs. Garcia which is Annex A in the Ombudsman's complaint against her husband.

Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, who is due to retire on Nov. 18, spent 33 years in engineering, logistics and the comptrollership of the AFP. In these units, he was exposed to money in the multimillions for the construction of roads, bridges, houses, school buildings and even hospitals for the military as well as the civilian government.

Garcia belonged to the Army, but not once did he experience combat. He has a total of 34 medals and commendations, including three Distinguished Service Stars, the third highest military medal awarded for feats not involving combat.

A 1971 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, Garcia spent 16 years in the engineering brigade. The AFP sent him to the United States to hone his engineering skills in 1975 and again in 1985.

He reached the apex of his career in the engineering corps when he served

GARCIA/ A10

Palace firmly behind Reyes, rejects recall

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SAYING it would not make a sacrificial lamb out of anyone "just to satisfy the propaganda needs of others," Malacañang yesterday rejected calls for the withdrawal of the appointment of Interior and Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes amid questions about the sources of his P18 million assets.

"We have said before that we would not be bullied into making any decisions because of screaming headlines," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a press briefing. Bunye added that Reyes himself had sufficiently answered the allegations against him.

He was echoing the statement of President Macapagal-Arroyo on Wednesday that demanding the resignation of Cabinet officials was to her the "least effective" means of removing officials. She said this in connection

PALACE/ A6

4 ex-AFP chiefs of staff to be questioned

THE FOUR former Armed Forces chiefs whom embattled Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia served as comptroller will not be allowed to fade away completely, the head of the House committee on national defense looking into alleged military corruption said yesterday.

Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez said his committee would "eventually" summon retired Generals Diomedio Villanueva, Roy Cimatu, Dionisio Santiago and Benjamin Defensor to explain how Garcia managed to amass wealth beyond his legitimate income.

For starters, Golez said, the incumbent AFP chief of staff, Gen. Narciso Abaya, would appear at the House inquiry on Monday when the committees on national defense and on banks resume the hearing on graft and corruption in the military.

Abaya also had Garcia as his comptroller until the latter was transferred to another post earlier this year following the discovery of his alleged unexplained wealth.

"We will eventually invite the former chiefs since, according to the statement of [AFP vice chief Adm. Ariston] De Los Reyes, all the transactions of the

4-EX AFP/ A10

Scandal may jump over to Crame

By Christian V. Esguerra

WILL THE storm now battering Camp Aguinaldo swing over across Edsa and slam into Camp Crame?

It just might, judging from the way some police officers are talking.

Despite the supposedly meager income of police generals and colonels, the officers' quarters at Camp Crame looks like a sprawling car showroom. One garage boasts of at least three cars, one of them a luxury vehicle.

One lucrative source of income is the monthly allowance each officer receives "over and above" his regular salary, a top Philippine National Police general told the INQUIRER yesterday.

And the officers don't even have to sign receipts when they get the allowances every 15th and 30th of the month, he said.

Another gold mine is the so-called "fund conversion" which has enabled some to pocket money intended for office supplies, including paper and furniture, and for gasoline intended for cars supposed to be used in chasing after hoodlums.

The disclosures about how some PNP officers are able to live in style came amid an investigation by the Ombudsman and Congress into alleged corruption among Armed Forces officers at Camp Aguinaldo just across the highway.

SCANDAL/ A10

DEPED DILEMMA

'So what do you charge them with, stupidity?'

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

WHAT do you charge with the publisher, authors, and the Department of Education evaluators who approved a history textbook with 431 errors?

Stupidity?

After confirming that a textbook which had been in use in public high schools for the last seven years did contain errors, the next step would be to go after the persons responsible.

However, DepEd officials are in a bind on how to do this.

Undersecretary Juan Miguel Luz said it was not that easy to hold the publisher, authors or the DepEd evaluators of the "Asya: Noon, Ngayon at sa Hinaharap" accountable.

"This will not satisfy Mr. (Antonio) Go, Senator Pimentel, Rep. Satur Ocampo or the others, because they want us to go after the individuals [responsible]. [But] we haven't figured out at this point how possible that is,"

DEPED/ A20

JOAN BONDOC

SUNRISE TO SUNSET. The month-long fasting for adult Muslims started on Friday. Daily, they will abstain from food, drink, smoking and conjugal relations. Here a Muslim man says his prayers at the QC Memorial Circle in observance of Ramadan. *(Story on Page A2)*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern sections of Luzon and Visayas and the whole of Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/10/16/04

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FRONT PAGE

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GMA: Peace is at hand in South

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo marked the start of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan yesterday by saying the government was close to reaching a peaceful settlement with Moro rebels in the south.

"In Mindanao, peace is at hand," the President said in a Ramadan message to the country's Muslim minority.

"We have a ceasefire that is working and one which both sides in the conflict assiduously strive to maintain," she said, referring to a ceasefire signed with the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front in 2002.

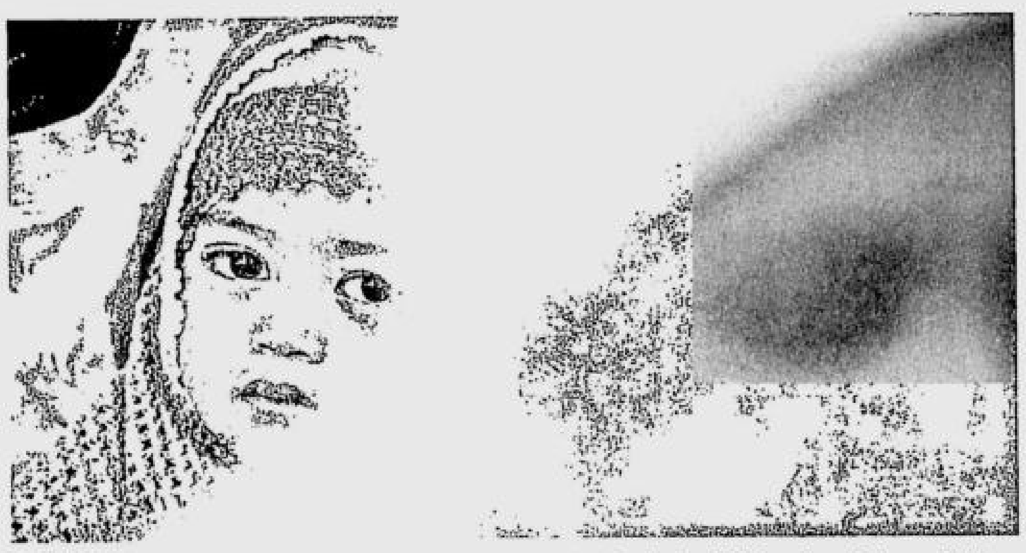
Ms Arroyo said the country must pursue through negotiations "a comprehensive and durable solution to the problems" of Mindanao where a Muslim separatist insurgency has been raging for three decades.

"Our dream for our Muslim brothers is for each and every one to attain their aspirations for peace and a better life. This shall be my government's unflagging goal," Ms Arroyo said, citing efforts to uplift Muslim communities which are among the most underdeveloped in the country.

The government and the nearly 12,000-strong MILF are due to resume formal peace talks in Malaysia after the month-long Ramadan.

A team of Malaysian security experts is in Mindanao to monitor the ceasefire.

Sporadic clashes and allegations that rebel commanders are sheltering members of the regional Jemaah Islamiyah terror network have strained the peace process.



PRAYING with her relatives inside a mosque in Taguig, the little girl joins the adults on Friday in observing the first day of the month-long fasting month of Ramadan. EPA

At the foreign affairs department, Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo yesterday ordered embassies and consulates abroad to allow their Muslim personnel to observe Ramadan during work hours.

Romulo said that Muslim personnel would be flexible working hours. They may report for work at about 7:30 a.m. and leave at about 3 p.m.

Adult Muslims are required to fast from sunrise to sunset, abstaining from food, drink, smoking and conjugal relations during the month-long fasting month.

The Philippine embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia has revised its office schedule for the entire month.

Under the new set-up, the daily eight-hour work week would be reduced to five hours, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., from Saturday to Wednesday, said vice consul Germinia V. Aguilar-Usudan.

On Nov. 11 and 18, the embassy will be closed to public transactions in observance of the Eid el-Fitr, the holiday to mark the end of Ramadan.

Regular working hours will resume on Nov. 20.

AFP and TJ Burgonio

Military mum on case of Air Force general

By Alcuin Papa

FOR the second straight day, the Armed Forces of the Philippines preferred to keep mum on why Brig. Gen. Prospero Ocampo was sacked last month and why he was still under investigation.

Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya confirmed that Ocampo, who was relieved of his position as chief of the Philippine Air Force's 570th Tactical Wing based in Puerto Princesa on Sept. 21, was indeed being investigated by the military leadership.

"There is an ongoing investigation and it is not yet finished," Abaya told reporters yesterday during the 35th anniversary of the AFP's Office of the Sergeant Major in Camp Aguinaldo. He did not elaborate on what he said were "complex" complaints.

The move comes amid a crackdown on corruption among top military and government officials.

"I don't know the specifics of the case but there were complaints and he (Ocampo) is being investigated. I did not see the case (documents, so) I am not ready (to talk about it) but it is under investigation by the inspector general," he said.

Abaya said that Ocampo, another member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1971, was "attached unassigned with GHQ (general headquarters) and the Headquarters Service Group. He is ready if our investigators will ask him (questions during the investigation)."

The AFP's inspector general who is tasked to investigate Ocampo, Maj. Gen. Edwin Galzote, is another member of PMA Class of 1971.

In a radio interview yesterday, Philippine Air Force spokesperson Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla denied reports that Ocampo was under investigation for falsifying his age.

"We checked this and no one turned in a complaint about his age. We also checked his records and we saw that he really has one more year (before retirement)," Padilla told dzBB.

They also asked the National Statistics Office to verify Ocampo's age. "So far, we have not received any feedback from the NSO," he said.

Another of Ocampo's PMA classmate, Maj. Gen. Ralph Flores, is under investigation for allegedly falsifying the birth date in his records with the AFP to extend his service beyond the compulsory retirement age of 56.

Ocampo was reportedly born on June 25, 1949, giving him at least one more year in service.

Padilla also denied that Ocampo was under investigation on allegations of graft and corruption. He said they have not received any formal complaint on these allegations.

He denied reports that it was the "bossy ways" of Ocampo's wife which led to the investigation on the general. "I don't know about that because I don't know Gen. Ocampo's family," he said.

With AFP

Tax the rich, exempt the poor—lawmaker

By Carlito Pablo

TAX the rich, not the poor, is the battle cry of a party-list representative who has filed a bill seeking to exempt from income taxes workers earning below P600 a day.

Magtubo said the exemption from paying income taxes would help workers to cope with hard times.

"Those who have more in life should have more in taxes," said Partido ng Manggagawa Rep. Renato Magtubo, adding that at least 16 million workers will benefit from his bill.

In filing House Bill 2985, Magtubo said the government itself, through the National Wages and Productivity Commission, has prescribed that the cost of living for a family of six is P600 per day.

"Cost of living is the amount needed to buy food and other basic necessities," Magtubo said.

But he noted that current wage levels were not even enough to cover an average family's cost of living.

The minimum wage in the National Capital Region is P250 and the cost of living allowance is P50.

"While the government will lose revenues from this bill, the workers' purchasing power will be increased, resulting in more demand for consumer goods that will also generate an increase in the government's collection of value-added tax on goods and services," Magtubo said.

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Pat backs Miriam's Senate bill on one-day menstruation leave

LABOR Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas yesterday said she would support the bill proposed by Sen. Miriam Santiago seeking to allow female employees to take a monthly one-day menstruation leave.

Sto. Tomas said she was glad a legislator had thought of it as she had hoped for just such a leave when she herself was a young employee.

The labor chief said that only Congress has the power to enact such a measure which would mainly benefit government employees.

Private sector workers are able to bargain for such leaves under their collective bargaining agreements.

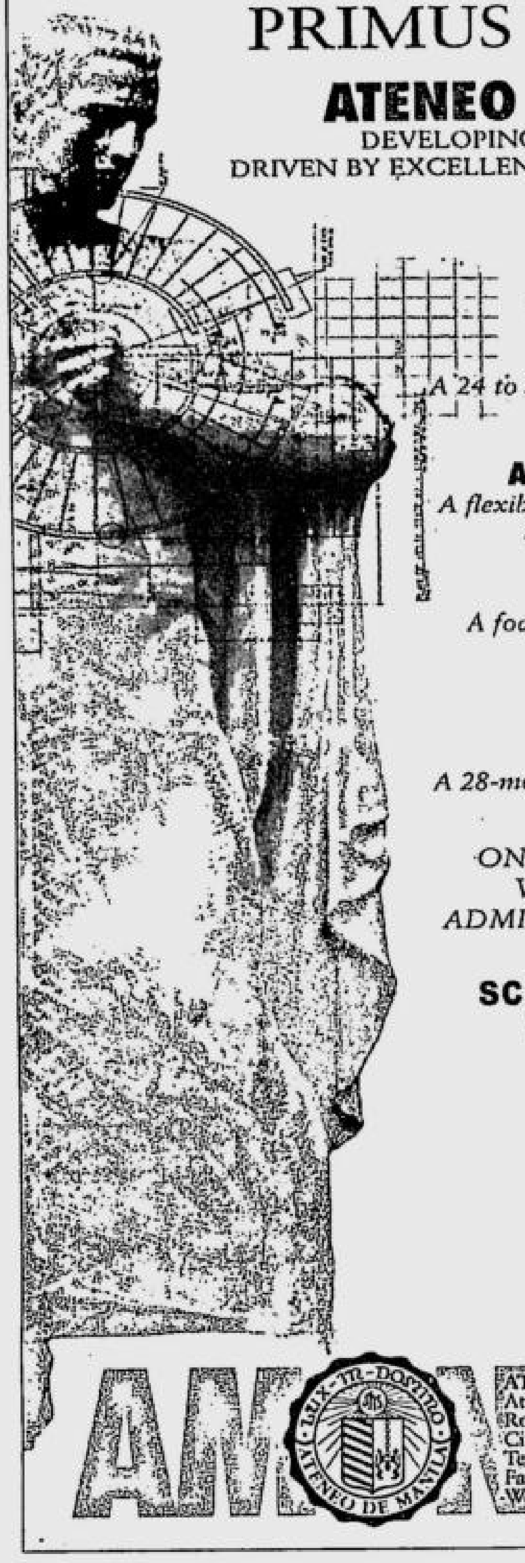
Santiago has filed Senate Bill 1687 which seeks to grant a day's leave each month for all female employees suffering from "pre-menstrual or menstrual tension." It would also allow employees who report for work despite suffering the syndrome to be remunerated the equivalent of 50 percent of their daily rate.

Asked if she saw any opposition from the men, Sto. Tomas said the men should be thankful that they don't have to go through menstruation.

But Ciriaco Lagunzad, the executive director of the National Wages and Productivity Commission, told reporters the proposal has to be studied thoroughly because of its likely effect on the country's productivity.

"Majority of workers in the garments and semi-conductors (sectors) are women and if all of them would be allowed to take an additional day off because of menstruation, it could affect business operations," Lagunzad said.

Any new policy imposed on business firms should be acceptable to both sides—management and workers, he said. *Martin Marfil*



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400 youths to join 'sex camp' in Subic

By Blanche S. Rivera

THIS is one camp young Filipinos will probably be clamoring to join.

The Philippines is hosting this weekend a sexual and reproductive health camp for adolescents and young adults at the Subic Bay Freeport in Olongapo.

Some 400 youths, 15 of them from the Asia-Pacific region, have registered for the four-day camp that opens on Oct. 17 and ends on Oct. 22 at the Upper Mau in Subic.

Tomas Osias, the executive director of the Commission on Population, said the growing number of young people as a proportion of the world population has compelled government and the private sector to promote initiatives to educate them on responsible sexual behavior.

At a press briefing yesterday, Osias noted that many young adults and adolescents remain ignorant about some important aspects of sexual behavior even as they start engaging in sex earlier than previous generations.

"This condition puts them at risk, considering that both males and females are attaining sexual maturation much earlier and put off marriage to a later age," Osias said.

"This makes them engage in risky sexual activities that expose them to reproductive health problems such as sexually transmitted infections and unplanned pregnancies. Those who experience reproductive health problems usually do not seek medical attention," he said.

The camp will cover extensive discussions on reproductive health, sexuality and other issues confronting adolescents and young adults. Participants' ages range from 14 to 21.

Of the 15 foreign participants, two are from Afghanistan, one each from China, India, Samoa, Kirgistan, Thailand, and two each from Laos, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Nepal.

Of the world's six billion population, one billion are aged 15 to 24, the biggest-ever generation of young adults in the world.

In the Philippines, the youth comprise 15.1 million, or 20 percent of the total population of 84 million. Their number will double in 33 years.

"The government recognizes the fact that adolescent medicine is just starting in the Philippines and is taking action to address the historical lack of attention to the needs of this sector," Osias said.

The fee is P8,200 for each participant, but those who enlist two participants get one free slot. A number of international donors are sponsoring some participants.

Corrections

IN THE Oct. 13 issue, the editorial on page A14 misstated that "In Mandaluyong City, public land in the City Hall complex was donated so that the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy, a Catholic church, could be built." The Ortigas Company donated the whole Maysilo Circle, where the church and the City Hall complex stand.

The editorial also misstated the name of the church in the Maysilo Circle. It should be the Archdiocesan Shrine of the Divine Mercy. The National Shrine of the Divine Mercy is located in Marilao, Bulacan.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses:glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Raul Palabrica, readers' advocate, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address:rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph.

Typhoon 'Siony' increases strength

By Norman Bordadora

TYPHOON Siony yesterday increased its strength as it was about to enter the Philippine area of responsibility, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

Although the typhoon was still too far to affect any part of the country, Pagasa said it could intensify in the next 12 to 24 hours.

Based on satellite and surface data, Typhoon Siony's center was located at 1,180 kilometers east northeast of the Bicol region at 10 a.m. yesterday morning. It was moving northwest at 13 kph and packing winds of 140 kph near the center.

With a gustiness of up to 170 kph, Typhoon Siony is expected to be 1,160 kilometers east of central Luzon this morning, 960 kilometers east of northern Luzon by tomorrow morning, and 750 kilometers east northeast of northern Luzon on Monday morning.

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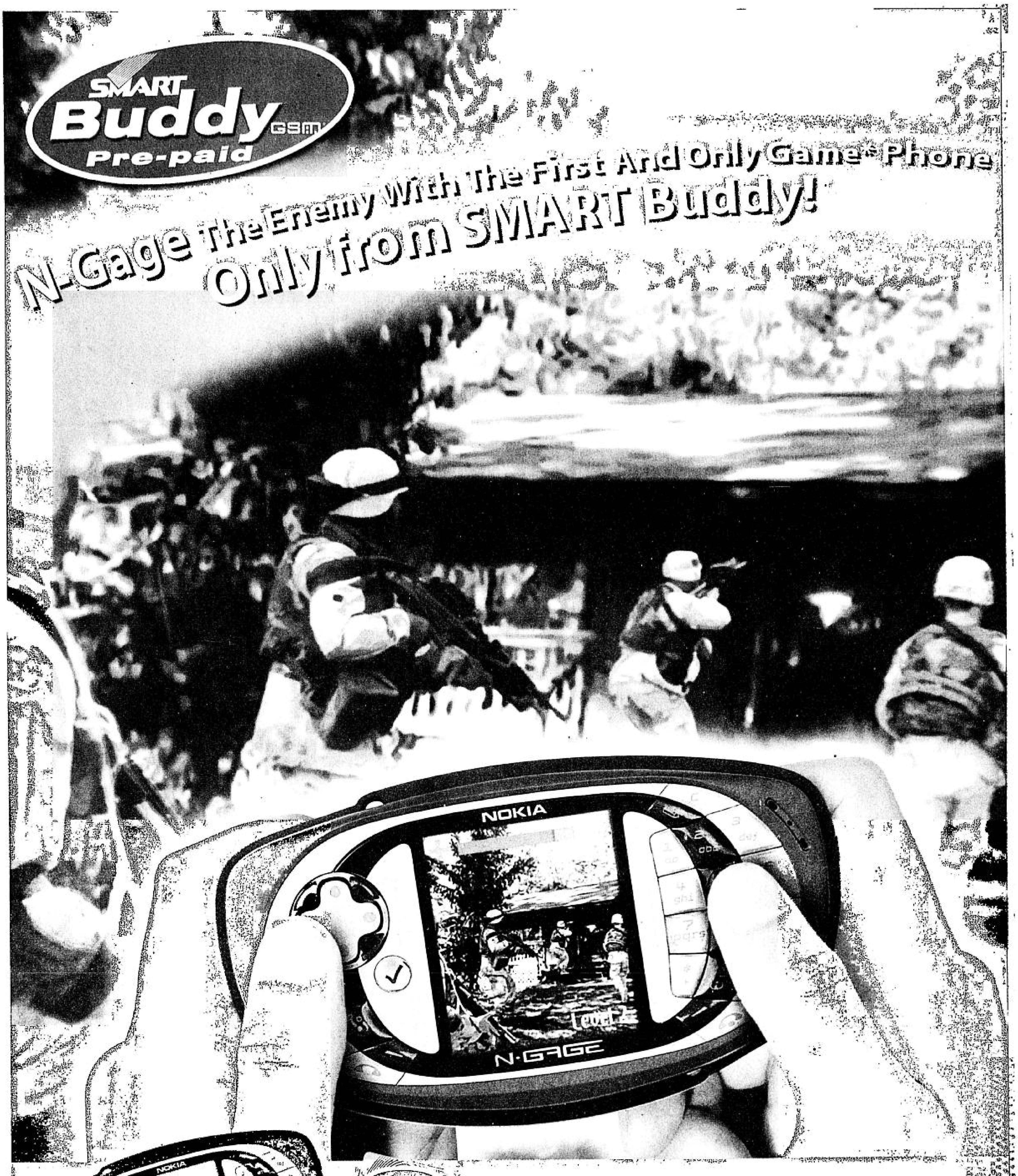
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Mendoza: No dollar accounts

MENDOZA: I don't live on my salary. I have substantial holdings due to other businesses.

By Clarissa S. Batino

AS THE heat is trained on military officials, Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza, a former chief of the Philippine National Police, yesterday denied that he had a dollar stash in the United States.

Mendoza said he had no knowledge that the US government was investigating him or his family. "I will formally ask the US authorities to issue a clarification on the issue. This is unfair to us who are being implicated," he said.

Ex-military rebel Rex Robles, a retired commodore, had earlier said three Cabinet-level officials with military background were being investigated by US authorities for graft.

Mendoza said that one of his deputies had spoken with Robles and that the latter had cleared his name.

The others who fit Robles' description are Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes and National Security Adviser Hermogenes Ebdane.

All, as well as Mendoza, are graduates of the Philippine Military Academy.

Mendoza said he was willing to issue a special power of attorney to an authorized body that could check whether he had a dollar deposit in the United States. "If they find one," he said, "it's theirs."

He said he cut his ties with the military in 1991: "I don't have military connections anymore."

Mendoza said he had "substantial" holdings derived "from legal sources of income."

"I don't live on my salary from the government. I have substantial [assets] because I have other businesses," he said. But he refused to elaborate beyond stressing that his businesses were "legal."

He also said there could be a demolition job aimed at former military officials in the Cabinet.

Mendoza, who started his career with the now defunct Constabulary, was named PNP chief in 2001.

REYES: No hanky-panky

PDI PHOTO

Palace firmly behind Reyes, rejects recall

From page A1

to protest rallies against Government Service Insurance System general manager Winston Garcia.

"We have expressed the view of the President that nobody is above the law but we will not make any sacrificial lamb out of anybody just to satisfy the propaganda needs of others," Bunye said.

He said the President is not even asking for an explanation from Reyes, who helped topple President Joseph Estrada and install Ms Arroyo as President during the Edsa 2 uprising.

"This is being done by the secretary and he has been explaining his side to the media and I believe the explanations of Secretary Reyes are sufficient at least for purposes of answering the allegations raised against him," Bunye said. He also said there was no need for Reyes to take a leave from his post.

"I don't think that's called for given the circumstances of the revelations which as I said are unsubstantiated at this time," Bunye said.

Smear campaign

Reyes himself was in a fighting mood as he vowed to continue to perform his job. He said his critics won't succeed in stopping him from running after big-time drug lords and kidnapping syndicates.

"This smear campaign only strengthens my resolve in doing my job well. I have no intention of getting soft on these gang bosses who, unfortunately, are the obvious beneficiaries of the latest tirades against me," Reyes said.

He expressed optimism that members of the Commission on Appointments would not dignify the smear campaign against him, saying he believes in the impartiality and objectivity of the country's legislators.

"I just hope that our legislators would keep an open mind and not fall victim to the black propaganda being peddled by my detractors," Reyes said.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero and other lawmakers had called on the President to withdraw her appointment of Reyes after questions were raised on his assets.

Benefit of doubt

But one member of the commission, Sen. Francis Pangilinan, said Reyes should be given the benefit of doubt. He said he did not support calls for Reyes' appointment papers to be withdrawn pending a satisfactory explanation of the latter's assets.

"We should look at the data on Reyes and give him the opportunity to clarify matters," Pangilinan said in an interview.

He said it was important to allow Reyes to defend himself given that the general in his line of work may have stepped on the toes of some people who might try to get back at him.

Minority Leader Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., on the other hand, said that President Arroyo should act on charges against her appointees, including Reyes.

"She is the chief law enforcer of the government," Pimentel said in a separate interview. The "very least" that the President could do was to ask appointees facing charges to go on leave or withdraw their appointments, the senator said.

'Spare my family'

Reyes appealed to his detractors to spare his family from the negative publicity. He said his wife, Teresita, took control of their family restaurant business only last year.

"The restaurants in question—Mama Gie in Cebu City and Lola Inda in Bulacan—are owned by my wife's family. She took control of management only last year so that is the reason why it was only that year that it was reflected in my statement of assets," he added.

"I declared my assets as legally mandated. They are now on record for public scrutiny. It is just unfortunate that certain quarters have opted to twist, give negative implications and sensationalize reports about my assets," he added.

In his Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net worth, Reyes reported an increase in his cash deposits from P75,000 in 2002 to P4.1 million last year. He also listed in his statement two restaurants and a P10 million house at the AFP Officers' Village in Fort Bonifacio.

Joint account with mother

Reyes, a former AFP chief of staff and defense secretary, had denied any hanky-panky.

Reyes explained that the P4 million increase in his bank deposits came as result of his decision to convert his mother's account into a joint bank account given the fact she is already 94 years old. He reported that the increase in his net worth was brought about by the P6 million improvements on his house at the AFP Officer's Village in Fort Bonifacio.

His properties also include houses in San Juan and Parañaque with current fair market value of P50 million and P25 million, respectively. Both houses were inherited and declared according to its acquisition costs, not the market value.

Reyes also owns two other properties at the Officer's Village with a current fair market value of P5 million each.

Loan to build house

In his 2003 statement, he declared total assets of P18.7 million, but he also declared a loan from PSBank amounting to P9.5 million and personal loan from relatives and friends of P851,699.

He said he took out the PSBank loan to finance the building of his new house. *With a report from Christine Avendaño and Armand Nocum*

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₱138M worth of shabu seized at Manila port

By Jerome Aning

CUSTOMS authorities yesterday seized 69 kilograms of high-grade shabu worth P138 million from an unclaimed container van inside the Manila International Container Port.

The drug cache (methamphetamine hydrochloride) was found in three boxes consigned to F. Paas Trading. The firm turned out to be non-existent.

The shipment arrived on Aug. 30 on board the vessel "Mol Grace" from Thailand.

On Wednesday, Bureau of Customs Deputy Commissioner Ray Allas ordered the van opened and inspected. A customs agent took samples of the white substance found inside the van, which was also filled with rice, clothes and shoes.

The samples were confirmed to be shabu by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency on Thursday evening.

BOC Commissioner George Jereos has ordered the seizure of the entire shipment.

Senior Supt. Orlando Mabutas of PDEA said a tip from an informant prompted authorities to place the container under surveillance.

X-ray and other tests confirmed suspicions the boxes contained illegal drugs, he said. *With AP report*

YAP'S PLEA

Farmers told: Harvest rice crop, please

By Christine O. Gaylican

AGRICULTURE Secretary Arthur Yap has appealed to the "sense of patriotism and selfless service" of the rice traders and farmers in Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog in the latter's threat not to harvest their rice crop unless traders agree to increase the farm gate price of *palay*.

Yap has asked Gregorio Tan, the administrator of the National Food Authority, to arrange a dialogue between the traders and the farmers and help them to reach a middle ground that would allow the farmers to earn a decent profit and traders to keep the market price of rice within the reach of ordinary Filipinos.

The farmers are asking the traders to raise the farm gate price of *palay* (unmilled rice) from P7 to P10.50 a kilo.

Otherwise, the farmers, grouped under the Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Gitnang Luzon and the Lumaban-Timog Katagalugan, threaten to stop harvesting the rice crop starting on Monday, in the middle of the harvest season in what is known as the country's rice belt.

Yap urged the contending parties to "reach a speedy and equitable conclusion" to the dispute so as not to jeopardize the country's food security.

"Since we are all targeting rice self-sufficiency in 2006 and 94 percent self-sufficiency this year, we should do all we can to eliminate the obstacles to increasing rice production," he said.

He asked the farmers to put off their planned farm strike as it could trigger a supply gap, necessitating more rice importation which would further depress the rice-farming sector.

He told the traders that he was doing all he can to build a stronger and more efficient supply chain and has been putting in place the necessary infrastructure to make it easier and faster for farm produce to reach food processors and consumers.

But the traders must also do their share by working for the sustainability of rice producers and assuring uninterrupted supply of the commodity to consumers at affordable prices, the agriculture secretary said.

Yap said he has now made it easier for traders to deliver farm products from the north to Metro Manila and Southern Tagalog through the Project Food Lane, which exempts agricultural deliveries from the truck ban and number-coding on selected Metro Manila streets.

Gordon bats for expanded UN body

SEN. RICHARD J. Gordon has called for the expansion of membership in the United Nations Security Council to achieve a balance in decision-making on global security concerns.

Speaking before the UN general assembly in New York recently, Gordon stressed the need for radical reforms in the world's most powerful body tasked with the responsibility of preserving international peace and security.

In a press statement, Gordon reiterated the Philippine government's position that the Security Council should be guided by the principle of collective security established under the UN charter.

"A reform of the Security Council is both important and ripe because of the emergence of new and non-traditional threats to international peace and security," Gordon told the UN assembly.

He also urged the overhauling of the UN's social and economic councils and granting of additional powers to the UN's Secretary General.

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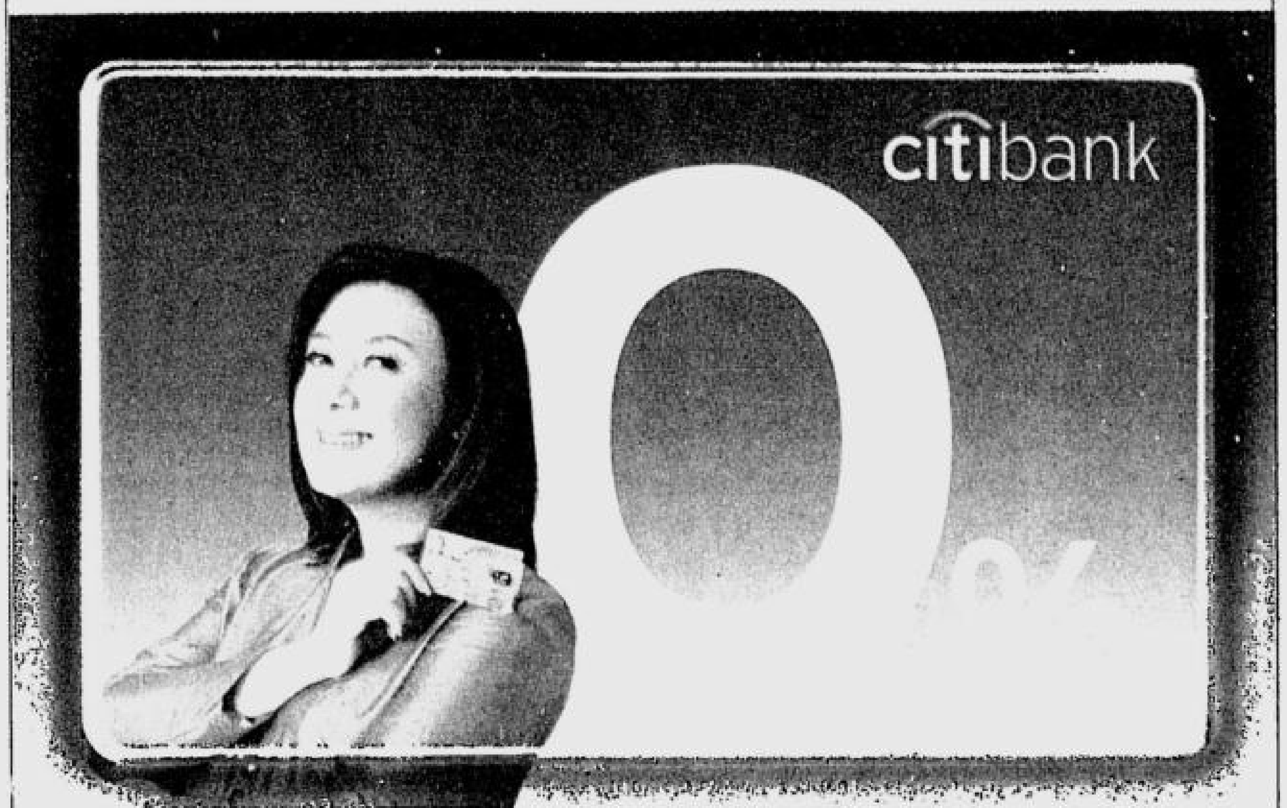

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Malacañang scoffs at US think tank's disparaging comments against GMA

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, October 16, 2004
28th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Eph 1:15-23
Gospel: Lk 12:8-12

Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you, whoever acknowledges me before people, the Son of Man will also acknowledge before the angels of God. But the one who denies me before others will be denied before the angels of God.

There will be pardon for the one who criticizes the Son of Man, but there will be no pardon for the one who slanders the Holy Spirit.

When you are brought before the synagogues, governors and rulers, don't worry about how you will defend yourself or what to say. For the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you have to say."

Commentary

The Holy Spirit is "the Spirit of Truth" (see Jn 14:17; 15:26; 16:13). The sin against the Holy Spirit is the sin against the truth. It is to call white black and black white. Then nothing stands: nothing has any color any more. There is no forgiveness, Jesus said, for the sin against the Holy Spirit. This comes as a shock, because we rightly say that nothing is beyond the mercy of God. The blockage is not on God's side but on ours. We have turned the signpost right around; and that, in a way, is like turning the earth in the other direction; and that, in turn, is like turning back all the stars in the sky. It is like trying to live in a different universe. The trouble is that there isn't any!

The mystics have had the courage to say things that would sound blasphemous if we didn't listen carefully. Speaking about "worshipping the Father in spirit and truth" (Jn 4:23) Meister Eckhart said, "What is truth? The truth is such a noble thing that if God were able to turn away from truth, I would cling to truth and let God go."

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Contents of petition for review—A petition for review should only cover questions of law. Questions of fact are not reviewable. The exceptions apply only in the presence of extremely meritorious circumstances. As laid out in Ramos, et al. vs Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co, 125 Phil. 701 (1967): (a) when the conclusion is a finding grounded entirely on speculations, surmises and conjectures; (b) when the inference made is manifestly mistaken, absurd or impossible; (c) where there is grave abuse of discretion; (d) when the judgment is based on a misapprehension of facts; (e) when the findings of fact of the trial court and the appellate court are conflicting; (f) where the appellate court manifestly overlooked relevant facts which would have justified a different conclusion; (g) where the findings of fact are contradicted by the evidence of record. None exists in this case. We note with disfavor that most of the issues raised in this petition are factual. We caution the petitioners that this practice of deluging the court with factual issues in defiance of well-settled rule, in the hope of having them reviewed, is unacceptable. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Carpio, First Division, Villanueva vs Court of Appeals, G. R. No. 143286]

By R. B. Vera

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PERHAPS acknowledging for the first time that ties with the US Bush administration have frayed following the Philippines' withdrawal of its token contingent in Iraq, Malacañang yesterday scoffed at a Washington think tank's disparaging view of President Macapagal-Arroyo whom it called "the weakest leader in the region."

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the Heritage Foundation's analysis was "obviously biased" as it came from an institution allied with President George W. Bush and his Republican Party.

"This group is identified with one particular party (Republican) and we see where they are coming from and we can see the bias," Bunye told a press briefing.

In a commentary that appeared on "The Asian Wall Street Journal" issue of Oct. 7, Heritage senior policy analyst Dana R. Dillon called Ms Arroyo an "equal opportunity weakling" and somebody who would "rather appease than confront.

"On question after question, she has changed policies to put her and her erstwhile allies into weaker positions. At this point, she must be considered the weakest leader in the region," said Dillon, a former military officer and Pentagon official specializing in Southeast Asian political and military affairs.

Bunye said he was aware the Heritage Foundation was closely linked to Bush who made a one-day state visit to Manila last year.

As to the state of Philippine-US relations, Bunye said he believed "temporary disagreements will be hurdled.

"Our relationship is stronger than many people believe. Our relationship has been described as a maturing one. We will continue to work with the US in many areas," he said.

Bunye did not answer when asked how the President viewed the prospect of a second Bush term.

In his analysis, Dillon accused the President of allowing threats from Iraqi terrorists and regional bullies like China to influence her policies, thus working against the interests of friends and allies which provide the Philippines with diplomatic and financial aid.

"She has... accepted nearly $100 million a year in military, development and food aid from the United States since the Sept. 11 attacks, at the same time working against American interests on a variety of issues," he said.

He said the President's "surrender to terrorists" encouraged a spate of kidnapping in Iraq and eventually forced her to impose a ban on the deployment of Filipino workers to Iraq.

He also criticized Ms Arroyo for "acceding to China's expansionist plans" by signing an agreement to jointly explore for oil and gas in disputed territories in the South China Sea.

The pact with China "almost certainly will embolden Beijing to pressure other Asean [Association of Southeast Asian Nations] capitals to compromise their claims in the South China Sea," he said.

Bunye defended the President's leadership abilities, noting how "one of the US' most prestigious magazine, Forbes, featured President Arroyo on its cover and described her as one of the strongest woman leaders not only in Asia but in the world."

He said the President's decision to save Filipino truck driver Angelo de la Cruz from his Iraqi kidnappers was based on national interest, particularly that of the 1.5 million Filipinos working in the Middle East.

"This is something the President does not regret and she does not apologize for the decision. This showed what kind of stuff the President has by taking the cudgels for Filipinos," Bunye said.

Bunye also said that the agreement to jointly explore the disputed Spratlys with China was "consistent with the declaration of conduct of the parties in the South China Sea."

An official of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FFCCCI) also defended Ms Arroyo.

"We may have a compassionate President but it should not be interpreted as a weakness," said FFCCCI executive vice president Francis Chua.

10-man police contingent off to Haiti

By C. V. Esguerra

THE PHILIPPINES will send a 10-man humanitarian contingent to Haiti to join the United Nations peacekeeping mission there.

The team will be composed of three Philippine National Police colonels, four chief inspectors and three non-officers, according to Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, police spokesperson.

The team, headed by Supt. Lester Camba, is scheduled to leave on Oct. 25.

Bataoil said the team will assist the UN forces in maintaining peace and order in Haiti for one year.

The team members will each receive a daily subsistence and mission allowance of $100 on top of their monthly salary from the PNP.

Haiti has been rocked by domestic violence following the forced resignation of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Last Sept. 30, around 20,000 pro-Aristide supporters staged a violent rally that left three police officers dead.

The country is headed on an interim basis by United States-backed Gerard Latortue, a Florida-based UN development official.

Meloxicam continues to be a treatment option for arthritis

Rofecoxib, a commonly prescribed anti-arthritis drug was recently withdrawn from the market. The reason: there was a study showing that the drug causes increased risk of heart attack and stroke.

Not long after, there were concerns from physicians and patients that other anti-arthritis medications might also cause the same problem.

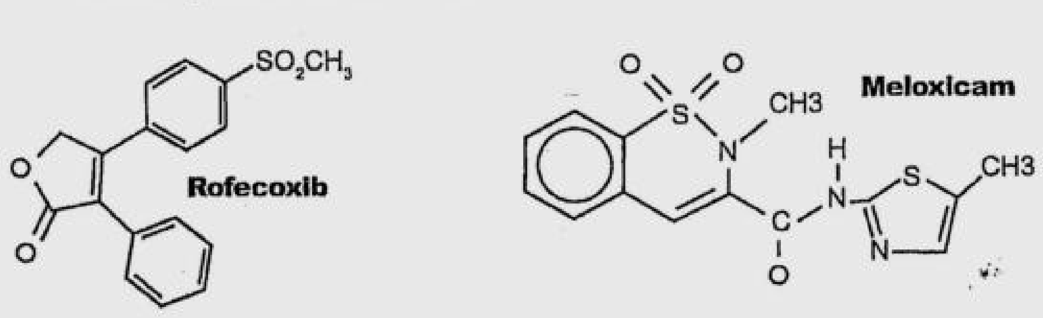
But people with arthritis who are taking meloxicam can have a sigh of relief.

Meloxicam, a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) for treating pain and swelling caused by arthritis, continues to be a treatment option for many patients. It's chemical structure is different from Coxibs, the class of drugs where rofecoxib belongs.

Studies of more than 100,000 patients taking meloxicam and traditional painkillers showed no evidence to suggest that meloxicam is associated with increased risk of cardiovascular disease.

These findings offer reassurance to meloxicam's commendable overall safety profile in the cardiovascular system. In light of recent news, however, arthritis patients are advised to discuss with their physicians the treatment options in their arthritis therapy.

Meloxicam, developed by Boehringer Ingelheim, has been used by more than 70 million patients in 100 countries since its first introduction in 1995.



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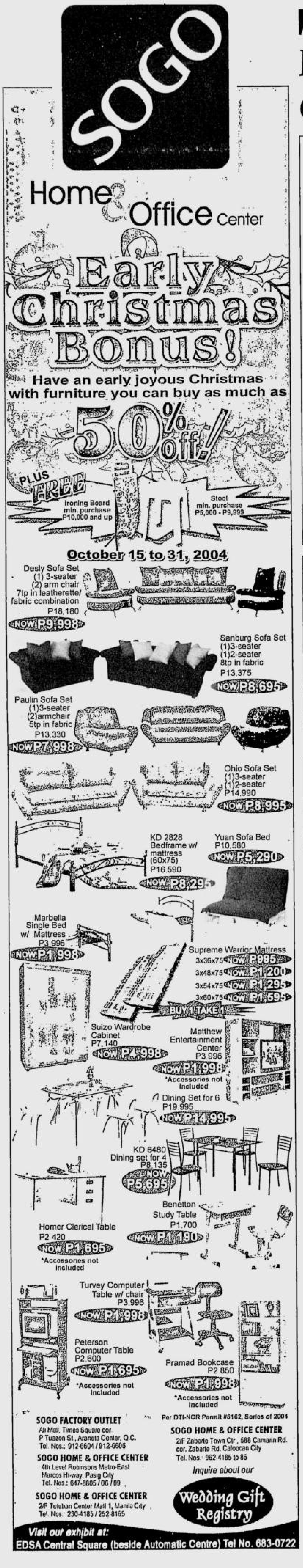
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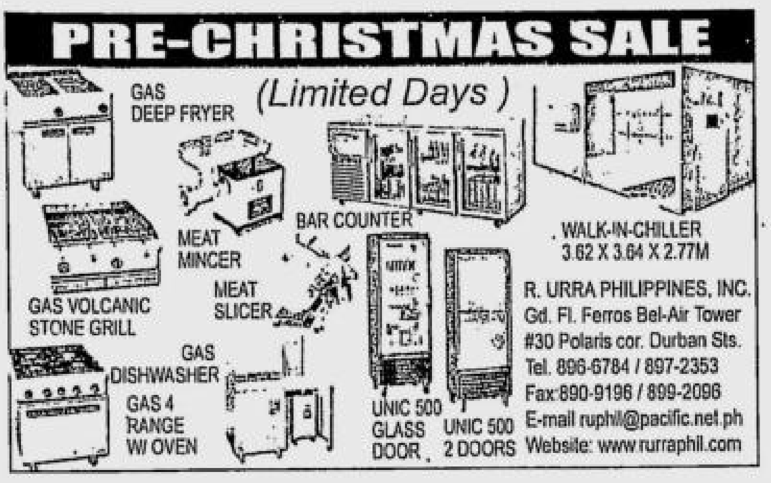

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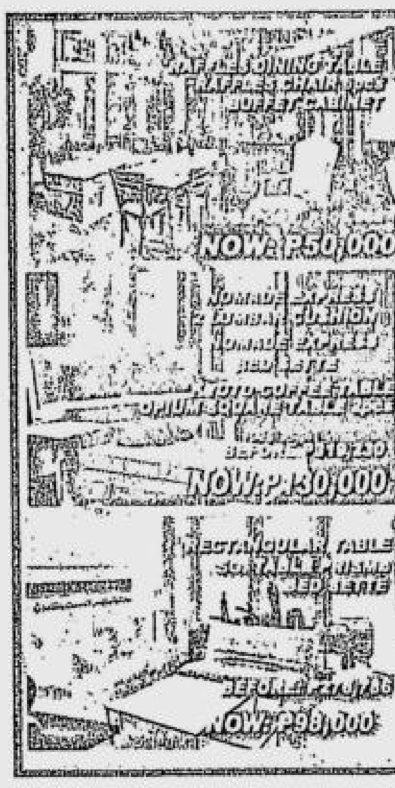

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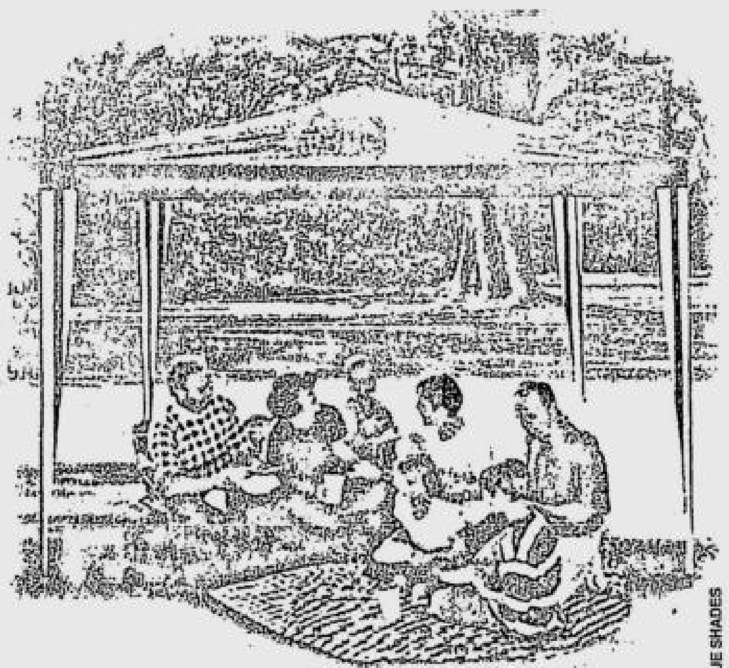
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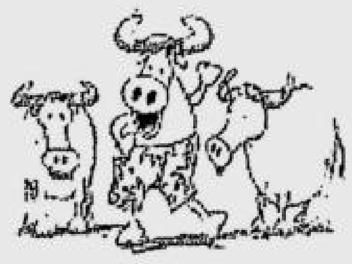

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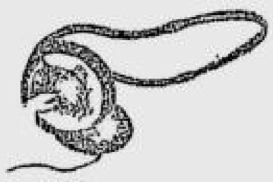

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PNP general with Jaguar retiring early

By Christian V. Esguerra

THIS POLICE general is retiring two weeks early but he says it isn't because of allegations that he is a keeping a Jaguar and a yacht that belonged to a suspected drug lord.

He made it clear that only the Jaguar had been under his "personal custody."

"I had long decided to retire earlier so I could rest," Director Eduardo Matillano, one of the Philippine National Police's most controversial generals, told the Inquirer yesterday. "It's not in any way related to the controversy."

"What's next? An airplane?" Matillano sarcastically asked, denying insinuations that he had been using the blue Jaguar X-Type luxury sedan—worth at least P4 million—and the yacht which the police confiscated last year from alleged drug lord Jackson Dy.

The allegations coincided with an investigation into a corruption scandal buffeting the Armed Forces. The scandal centered on accusations that former military comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia had illegally amassed wealth, including assets in banks and real estate in the United States.

Highly-publicized conflicts

Matillano, who was previously involved in highly publicized conflicts with former classmate and opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson over bugging devices and illegal drugs, said he would file his retirement two weeks before he reached the mandatory retirement age of 56 on Nov. 30.

But he quickly pointed out that his decision to retire a bit early was not the result of the newest controversy to hound him.

He said that Philippine National Police chief Edgar Aglipay, then head of the police anti-illegal drugs task force, had personally asked him to take custody of the Jaguar in his capacity at the time as director of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG).

Even in his current position as director for investigation and detective management, Matillano said it would not be unusual for him to keep the Jaguar since he was still part of the "investigation family."

"What I did was to keep it in a storage facility in Pasig," he said. "There's no truth to the allegation that I parked it in my quarters at Camp Crame or in my house in Rizal. I never touched it for a single second."

Matillano said he had already submitted to the Internal Affairs Service, the PNP's anti-graft body, an affidavit detailing the circumstances that led to his safekeeping of the luxury vehicle.

He also denied that the yacht confiscated from the Cavite shabu laboratory purportedly owned by Dy was in his "safekeeping."

Seeking to finally put the issue to rest, Aglipay on Tuesday turned custody of the Jaguar over to the courts.

Aglipay also ordered the IAS to investigate allegations that Matillano was using evidence seized from crime suspects.

Warning

"I am now directing the IAS to investigate General Matillano," he told reporters. "If you have claims that he's using the car as written in your newspapers, let the IAS investigate it."

Aglipay also issued a "fair warning" to other PNP officials who might be personally using vehicles their offices were supposed to keep as evidence in their investigation.

Aglipay himself explained that the Jaguar was under Matillano's "custody" since it was the CIDG, then under Matillano, which spearheaded the raid on the suspected drug laboratory the at Beverly Subdivision in Barangay Capipisa, Tanza, Cavite on July 25, 2003.

Yacht without engine

Aglipay also tried to douse cold water on the controversy over the yacht.

"It's with the CIDG at Region 4a," Aglipay said. He added that it was impossible for Matillano to keep the yacht because it was being repaired somewhere in Calabarzon.

"It can't be moved, it can't even be used because the engine is with the repairman," Aglipay explained.

Garcia's US assets on hold, including 2 NY condos

From page A1

The general's assets would then be put under the court's control pending his trial.

Asked whether Garcia's wife Clarita and their three sons would also be liable for plunder and money laundering, Benipayo said: "It will depend on the evidence. We are still investigating the case."

'Strong message'

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo lauded the appellate court for taking "swift action" on Garcia's case.

"This is a strong message of the effective and steadfast executive-judiciary partnership in our anti-corruption drive—and the overall strength of the criminal justice system," Ms Arroyo said through her spokesperson, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

The President has ordered a court-martial for Garcia after the AFP, reeling from reports of corruption in its ranks, initially refused to investigate the general.

The AFP said Garcia would be transferred from the UST hospital in Manila to the military-run V. Luna Medical Center in Quezon City this weekend "depending on the condition of his health."

"We will let him recuperate first," said Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, chief of the AFP Public Information, after speaking by phone with AFP Surgeon General Col. Rafael Regino.

Don't persecute

At a news conference, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile sought a "more humane" investigation on the corruption charges against Garcia.

"We must try him as an officer of the AFP and based on his alleged guilt," Enrile told reporters a day after congressmen conducting an inquiry descended on the UST Hospital in an effort to get Garcia to testify.

He appealed to probers "not to demean [Garcia] or oppress him or persecute him."

The Ombudsman is investigating Garcia for violating the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, the Plunder Law, and the Anti-Money Laundering Law.

Since last Sunday, he has been confined at the UST hospital for high blood pressure and respiratory problems.

Golez also

But Sorsogon Rep. Francis Escudero wants Golez himself on the hot seat.

"As a former military officer and national security adviser to President Macapagal-Arroyo, Congressman Golez dealt with these people [in the military]," the House minority leader said in an interview. "He is one of those who should be asked."

A former Navy officer who retired with the rank of captain in the 1980s, Golez served as national security adviser from 2001 to January 2004.

"He should have been advising the President about the issue of graft and corruption in the military. Unless of course he didn't know anything at all about this," Escudero said.

But Golez said he did not know anything about the issue.

"The NSA does not interfere with the administrative matters of the AFP," he said in a press conference when asked for comment on Escudero's statement. "I have no administrative supervision over the AFP. That is a totally different department."

Escudero also noted that Golez, a boxer during his cadet days at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, was treating Garcia with "kid gloves."

He cited Golez's decision to hold a hearing at the University of Sto. Tomas last Friday: "What we saw is that when Garcia didn't come to the mountain, the mountain went to Garcia."

State witness

Sen. Edgardo Angara is proposing the grant of immunity to Garcia in exchange for a "full disclosure" of those involved in the supposed syndicate operating in the AFP.

"General Garcia, who is already confronted with a 'smoking gun,' might be most useful as a state witness," Angara said at a press conference. "That may be the quickest way to uncover the entire syndicate. Once and for all, we can do great public service and put a stop to this scam on the military budget."

"If I were the public prosecutor, I will find as much information as possible about the modus operandi that they employ in raising money out of public funds and, if warranted, I will use General Garcia as a state witness in exchange for full disclosure," Angara added.

But Enrile disagrees with this proposal.

He said making Garcia a state witness "opens a door to a suspicion that other people higher or lower than he are involved."

He pointed out that investigators should first prove that there were other people involved and determine whether Garcia would be the least guilty.

"But before that is shown to be true, let us confine the problem to General Garcia," Enrile said. "Let him speak if he wants to speak." ***With reports from Christine O. Avendano, Juliet Labog-Javellana and Michael Lim Ubac***

Finally, a word from AFP chief

FINALLY, a word from the AFP chief of staff.

Gen. Narciso Abaya flew into the country early yesterday from Tokyo and addressed his soldiers during the 35th anniversary of the AFP Office of the Sergeant Major.

"It is important for me to talk to you now because of the many issues coming out in the media, issues that can cause confusion in our ranks," he said. "I will answer these issues and I hope you will spread the word to our other units."

Abaya said there was no inaction on the part of the AFP leadership regarding Garcia's case.

He said that when he received reports in February that one of Garcia's sons was held at the San Francisco airport last December for trying to bring in $100,000,

he immediately directed then AFP vice chief Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia to look into the incident.

He said he also ordered Garcia's transfer from the comptrollership to plans and programs, "so that the investigation would not be influenced" by the general.

Abaya said the AFP's Judge Advocate General was conducting an investigation and would recommend the formation of a court-martial to try Garcia for violations of the Articles of War.

Right to due process

He said the JAG was coordinating with the Ombudsman to make sure there would be no "double jeopardy" in the cases they would file.

Abaya said they would follow the rule of law and recognize Garcia's right to due process.

"That is not to say we are tolerating him (Garcia). We just want to make sure that the rule of law prevails," Abaya said.

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4 ex-AFP chiefs of staff to be questioned

From page A1

comptroller are approved by the chief of staff," Golez said.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero also pressed for an expansion of the congressional investigation of Garcia's wealth.

Referring to Abaya and the four former chiefs of staff, Escudero said: "How did the corruption happen during their watch?"

"Garcia is just a part of the entire thing," Escudero said. "The inquiry should focus on the past chiefs of staff and the system of procurement in the AFP."

Garcia: Zero combat but exposed to millions

From page A1

as chief of engineers from May 29, 2000, to May 27, 2001, during the term of Gen. Angelo Reyes. A day later, on May 28, Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, the newly named AFP chief of staff and known Reyes protege, appointed him AFP comptroller.

Good at it

A retired AFP chief of staff described Garcia as "a kind and helpful officer who specialized in engineering."

"Some officers chose infantry, others engineering. Garcia chose to belong to the corps of engineers and he was good at it," the retired general said.

According to his biodata posted in the AFP website, Garcia in 1986 led the 564th Engineering and Construction Battalion, which was named best in its category in 1987.

At about the same time, Garcia was again sent to the United States for the Logistics Executive Development Course at Fort Lee in Virginia. He returned to the Philippines in 1989.

It was apparently during those two years that he applied for a permanent residency. The application was apparently approved because he was granted a green card.

Garcia was then assigned to the office of the deputy chief of staff for logistics, where he stayed from Dec. 1, 1989, to June 1992.

In 1993 he was back in the United States to study for a master's degree at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, according to his biodata.

No putschist

Retired Commodore Domingo Calajate, one of the leaders of the 1989 failed coup against the Aquino administration, denied reports that Garcia was involved in it.

"Garcia's name never appeared in the amnesty list. He was never part of the coup [attempt]," Calajate told the Inquirer in a phone interview.

Scandal may jump over to Crame

From page A1

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the general said the allowances PNP officers received were based on their position and the particular office they held.

He said that he used to receive as much as P50,000 on top of his monthly salary of around P37,000. He stopped getting the amount after he was sacked from his post.

The going rate

Office deputies usually holding ranks of chief superintendents (one-star generals) get something between P30,000 and P40,000 in monthly "allowance," according to the source. Executive officers get around P30,000, and superintendents or colonels, between P15,000 and P25,000, he added.

A police colonel confirmed that PNP officials indeed received such "ghost" allowances. But he gave a much lower rate: P15,000 to P20,000 for star-ranked officials and P5,000 to P10,000 for those of lower rank.

A PNP chief receives a monthly salary of roughly P45,000 while colonels and generals get something between P35,000 and P37,000.

"Yes, we receive allowance and we can only speculate where it's coming from," the general told the Inquirer. "It's up to an official [to decide] how to spend it. There's no disbursement, no audit whatsoever."

No chance of discovery

The allowance is delivered every 15th and 30th of the month and is coursed through a budget officer, he said.

He claimed there was practically no chance for an officer to get caught or to be held liable for receiving the "highly questionable" allowance.

"We don't sign anything," he explained. "If we're entrapped, we can always reason that it's just a payment for something."

A PNP colonel said the allowances were a source of "extra income" for police officials.

"Actually, the intention of the allowance is good," he said. "It's supposed to allow an official to spend for the stipend of office errand boys and to finance the purchase of some office supplies or food."

Why they have many cars

But some police officials, he admitted, pocket the monthly allowance.

"This should explain why police officials have so many cars; they can afford them, not because of their salary but because of the allowance that they've been getting," he said by phone.

One police colonel has raised eyebrows after he reportedly bought a brand-new black Toyota Camry worth at least P1.6 million.

The vehicle is conspicuously parked in his garage. It still has no license plate, only a makeshift plate showing it was bought at the Toyota branch on Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong.

Other quarters show much more expensive vehicles.

Expedition, Navigator

Parked in one garage on Alpabeto Street are a Lincoln Navigator worth no less than P3 million, and a GMC luxury van.

Another garage belonging to another general keeps a Ford Expedition and at least two sedan, each worth no less than P500,000.

Fund conversion, a source of corruption that has put Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia in the hot seat, is apparently not exclusive to the Armed Forces.

The racket, involving conversion into cold cash of funds specifically allocated for supplies and official activities, is also "common" at the PNP, two top-ranked police generals said.

Just like in the military, some unscrupulous officials at the PNP earn "extra money" by converting budget classified under the maintenance, operations, and other expenditures (MOOE), the generals said.

Modus operandi

In separate interviews, they gave details of how the alleged racket goes:

A head of office or unit commander orders the purchase of, say, P500,000 worth of paper, tables, and other office supplies. But he can ask the dealer to deliver only P300,000 worth of purchases and "convert" the remainder into cash.

One of the generals said dealers and suppliers usually received 20 percent of the cash conversion while the remainder went to the head of office.

Fund conversion might also be common in the purchase of gasoline for police vehicles, the other general said.

The officer in charge of the purchase, he explained, may order, say, 3,000 liters of gasoline but would ask the gas station owner to deliver only half.

In cahoots

He said the other half of the purchase could then be converted into cash. An unscrupulous unit commander may ask the gas station owner to keep P3 for every liter of the undelivered purchase, while he pockets the rest of the amount.

"These things happen," the general told the Inquirer. "We need not look outside of the PNP for syndicated crimes. They're here."

But despite the purported prevalence of fund conversion at the police force, both generals agreed that an effective solution was likely not forthcoming.

"An investigation into this practice will be very complicated," one of the generals said. "That's because documents are available, attesting that deliveries were actually made, even if these documents were doctored by unscrupulous suppliers and dealers."

Safeguards built

Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, PNP spokesperson, said the national police had long built safeguards "to make sure that conversion is minimized."

"The PNP has institutionalized a system check for its procurement activities," he told the Inquirer. "We have decentralized bids and awards committees down to police regional offices and national support units."

PNP chief Edgar Aglipay said other government agencies could even follow the "PNP model" that supposedly gives practically no room for fund corruption.

"In the PNP, funds intended for the national headquarters goes straight to the national headquarters while those for the regions go straight to the regions," he told reporters.

Aglipay said there was also the "independent" PNP Internal Affairs Service tasked to investigate erring police officers.

Toothless watchdog

The decentralized fund set-up and the IAS were a direct result of a major controversy that rocked the police force during the Ramos administration, he said.

But one of the generals had very little faith on the IAS.

"It has no balls, no teeth," he said. "If it's in any way effective, then how come we still have all these anomalies at the PNP?"

Even as a matter of procedure, the other general said the IAS should investigate, besides fund conversion, another alleged anomaly involving "personnel services" or salaries.

"Does it even know that there are officers who get money out of suspended and deceased policemen?" he asked.

If a policeman gets suspended, dismissed or dies say, in March, the subsequent monthly salary he is supposed to receive for the rest of the year might be "stolen" by some crafty officers handling the budget, the general said.

Encashing checks

"We should understand that budget for salary is allocated for a full year," he said. "So if an officer gets dismissed in the middle of the year, his salary for the next six months should go back to the general fund. But sometimes, the checks he's supposed to receive get encashed."

"It's easy to fake signatures to enable an officer to encash another officer's check. This is happening but it is being tolerated by the PNP."

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueço**

US attacks Falluja at start of Ramadan

BAGHDAD—US warplanes bombed targets in Iraq's rebel-held city of Falluja on Friday, marking a violent start to the holy Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

"The status quo in certain cities in Iraq is unacceptable," the US military said. US marines, soldiers and Iraqi forces stepped up security operations in and around Falluja on Thursday night to disrupt planned attacks by insurgents, it said.

"This operation puts the anti-Iraqi forces in Falluja on notice," a statement said, using the military's term for Iraqi guerrillas and foreign militants fighting U.S.-led forces and Iraq's US-backed interim government.

Washington and Baghdad have vowed to retake insurgent-held towns and cities ahead of nationwide elections due in January.

There was no immediate word on casualties in the overnight raids, which the military said were aimed at its deadliest foe in Iraq, Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

Zarqawi's group said it was behind twin suicide bombings that killed five people, three of them Americans, in the heart of Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone on Thursday.

Hours after the blasts, US warplanes and helicopters launched fierce air strikes on Falluja, but a Pentagon spokesperson said she was not aware that this was the prelude to a major offensive against the bastion of Sunni insurgency.

"We are continuing operations," she said. "They are apparently hitting targets of opportunity." The interim government has told the people of Falluja to surrender Zarqawi and other foreign militants said to be holed up in the city of 300,000 or face military action.

Ramadan, observed by Iraq's minority Sunnis from Friday, will start for majority Shi'ites on Saturday.

Coordinated suicide bombings wreaked havoc in Baghdad at the start of Ramadan last year, with at least 40 people killed in attacks on the International Committee of the Red Cross headquarters and three police stations in Baghdad.

The military said the Falluja raids at 2.38 a.m. hit "command and control sites" used by senior Zarqawi leaders to store weapons and plan attacks, adding that air strikes since Thursday had destroyed many other Zarqawi targets.

Falluja residents have scoffed at such statements in the past, saying they have no knowledge of Zarqawi or his group and accusing the Americans of bombing civilian homes.

The Green Zone blasts at a souvenir bazaar and a cafe popular with US troops and civilians were the first suicide bombings inside what is supposed to be the safest place in Iraq.

The country's interim government quickly vowed to strike back.

"People were screaming. I wa on the floor," said Mohammed "Mo" Nawaf al-Obeidi, 25, owner of the nearby Mo's Restaurant, who was at the cafe. "People were stampeding, trying to get out," he said, his right hand bandaged.

At the cafe, an orange metal-framed tent built onto a former petrol station, the area was littered with glass, twisted metal, bloc and food. Pieces of flesh were lying up to 15 meters away. *Reuters*

Bush, Kerry set sights on swing states

DES MOINES, Iowa—Democratic challenger John Kerry fired a blistering new attack at President George W. Bush late Thursday over his failure to snare terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden as the candidates set their sights on key battleground states less than three weeks before the election.

Kerry criticized a remark by Bush in Wednesday's final presidential debate in which the president denied he had once said he was not concerned about Bin Laden.

"He couldn't explain to America, why when we had Osama bin Laden cornered in the mountains of Tora Bora, he outsourced that job to Afghan warlords and sent them up and Osama bin Laden got away," Kerry said at an evening rally in the midwestern state of Iowa.

Meanwhile, Bush expressed confidence voters will choose him on Nov. 2 as a proven leader, tough on terrorism and determined to defend the country.

"Now it's a sprint to the finish," Bush told reporters in a rare appearance aboard his Air Force One presidential plane, clinging to maverick Republican Sen. John McCain. "My spirits are high, I'm enthusiastic about my chances." Kerry all but erased Bush's lead over the course of their three, 90-minute exchanges. With national polls showing them deadlocked, the race shifted to a handful of up-for-grabs states that will decide the Nov. 2 election.

Earlier in Nevada, the Democratic senator gave a speech to a powerful and politically active senior citizens' lobby, the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), which claims some 36 million members nationwide.

"We need a fresh start in this country of ours," Kerry said. "I believe we need a president who will fight for the great middle class and those struggling to join it." The Democrat opened a 10-day blitz of seven up-for-grabs states—Iowa, Nevada, Ohio, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Florida and Minnesota—that may decide who gets the 270 electoral college votes needed to win the White House. *AFP*

New Cambodia king vows to stay out of politics

PHNOM PENH—Cambodia's new monarch King Norodom Sihamoni said in his first message to his kingdom Friday that he would stay out of politics, as he asked for guidance and understanding while he learns his new role.

King Sihamoni, 51, was handed his new title on Thursday by Cambodia's throne council, a week after his ailing and revered father, former king Norodom Sihanouk, announced his abdication. Both men are currently in Beijing.

The new monarch, a former ballet dancer and cultural diplomat who has spent most of his life outside Cambodia, pledged to stay out of his kingdom's murky political world while following his father's example.

"I will try my best to follow the model of my father when he took the throne for the second time (in 1993) and fully respected the constitution, which states that 'the king reigns but does not rule,'" he wrote in a statement.

"Moreover I will not interfere with the work of the legislature, executive and judiciary ... and will serve only in religious, diplomatic, social and humanitarian areas." While king, Sihanouk had been a champion of the poor, handing out rice and other necessities to the poorest in the destitute Southeast Asian nation.

He was also renowned for irking powerful Prime Minister Hun Sen and other top politicians with his sharp criticism of their work.

"I would like to declare publicly that I will be neutral with politicians and all parties," Sihamoni also wrote, praising Sihanouk for being "the father of independence, peace, national unification and national reconciliation." He promised to "always be honest with the nation" and confessed he "worried and feared that I cannot fulfill this great job well because I lack experience." *AFP*

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Prince Harry cheated in Eton exam, teacher says

READING, England—A former teacher who claims she was unfairly dismissed from Eton College after being ordered to help Prince Harry cheat in an exam tried to prove her allegation to a tribunal on Thursday by using a secret tape recording she had made while talking to him.

The former teacher, Sarah Forsyth, 30, has told the tribunal that she wrote nearly all the text of an art project that Prince Harry submitted to pass an important exam in 2002.

Her attorney, Robin Allen, quoted Harry as saying on the tape: "It was a tiny, tiny bit. I did about a sentence of it."

Forsyth claims that Prince Harry, the son of Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana, was referring to the amount of work that he had done on the course materials submitted to the exam board.

However, Eton later released its own transcript of the tape, with Prince Harry something slightly different: "I was, like, a sentence in it."

The grade that Prince Harry received for the course work helped him win admission to his next school, Sandhurst, where he is now training as a military officer.

Nigel Giffen, a lawyer for Eton, called Forsyth's conduct "pretty grubby."

Paddy Harverson, a spokesperson for Prince Charles, told the hearing: "This is incredibly unfair on Harry. Miss Forsyth's lawyers have given the court a brief extract from the tape and placed their own interpretation upon it."

"The tape ... contains barely audible half-sentences, and it appears to have been edited. It is also difficult to tell what Harry is saying and what he is referring to, due to the poor quality of the recording and the disjointed nature of the tape. The fact remains Harry did not cheat. The allegations have been independently investigated and proven unfounded," Harverson said.

Thursday's hearing was held to prepare for next year's tribunal on Forsyth's alleged unfair dismissal.

Forsyth claims she was fired on June 16, 2003 as a teacher at Eton, one of Britain's most prestigious private elementary and secondary schools, after being harassed by Ian Burke, then head of Eton's art department. She said Burke ordered her to carry out some of the work on Prince Harry's art project.

She said she secretly taped her conversation with the prince in her classroom, knowing that she was about to be unfairly dismissed from her job. "It was very difficult to talk to Prince Harry because he was always closely guarded by bodyguards," she testified.

Allen, Forsyth's lawyer, said she got Burke's order after the school announced she would be given a one-year contract in the future, not a permanent teaching post at Eton.

"She was not happy about the order to help Prince Harry," Allen said. "She feared that if she complained about it at the time she would be victimized."

Previous complaints Forsyth had made about Burke's conduct were ignored, Allen said.

"She said she felt it was unethical and probably contributed to cheating, and she felt she had been asked to do it because of Prince Harry's position at the time," Allen said. *AP*

PRINCE Harry in the Drawing School with two of the works of art he created while at Eton College June 7, 2003. AP

WORLDBRIEFS

Serbs own Muslim deaths

BANJA LUKA, Bosnia—Bowing to Western pressure, Bosnian Serbs acknowledged on Thursday that their forces killed more than 7,000 Muslims in Srebrenica in 1995 in what is seen as Europe's worst atrocity since World War II. It was the first time the Bosnian Serb government panel investigating the Srebrenica killings had given a death toll, which corroborates many independent assessments. For example, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) puts the Srebrenica death toll at over 7,000 as well. *Reuters*

Karzai leads in count

KABUL—The first results in Afghanistan's historic presidential election Thursday put President Hamid Karzai in the lead as counting finally got underway after delays over fraud charges and boycott threats. The counting began in five of the eight tallying centers across the war-torn country five days after millions of men and women defied the previous hardline Islamic Taliban regime to have their first say in their country's destiny. Preliminary results showed the US-backed incumbent Karzai, considered the favorite of 18 candidates to win the election, had garnered about 58 percent of the 26,123 votes counted, the electoral commission said. *AFP*

US deficit $413B

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush's administration announced Thursday a record 2004 budget deficit of 413 billion dollars, firing up a pre-election battle over the economy. The unprecedented deficit provides Democratic challenger John Kerry with ammunition in a furious fight over economic policy ahead of the November 2 presidential vote. Government spending for the year ended September 30 surged 6.2 percent to 2.29 trillion dollars, swamping income, which climbed 5.5 percent to 1.88 trillion dollars, the Treasury Department said. As a result, the deficit mushroomed 9.5 percent from 2003 to 413 billion dollars—equal to 3.6 percent of gross domestic product, or total economic output. *AFP*

Quake rocks Taiwan, Japan

TAIPEI—A powerful earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter Scale rocked Taiwan on Friday, causing people to flee swaying high-rise buildings and sparking several fires. There were no immediate reports of serious injuries or damage from the quake, which was located offshore some 109 km off Taiwan's northeastern coast. It focus was 58 km below sea level. The temblor, which struck at 0408 GMT, was also felt in Japan's southern Okinawa chain where there were also no immediate reports of serious casualties or damage. *AFP*

The Treasures of Life Unfold

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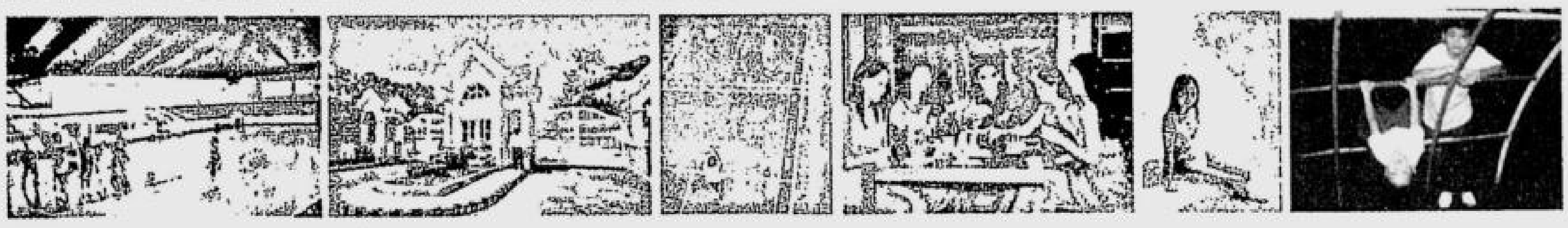

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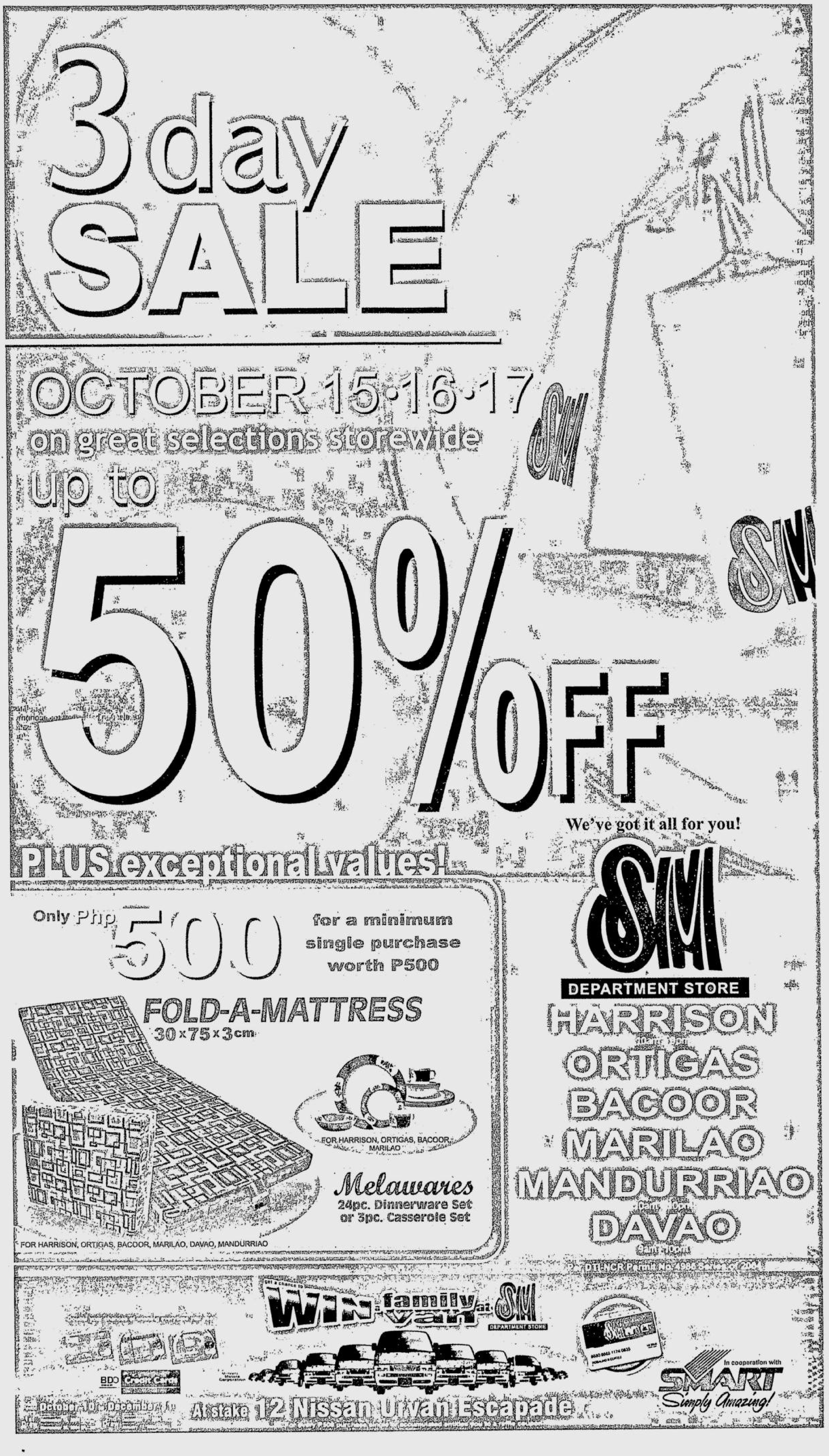

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Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net
Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

OPINION

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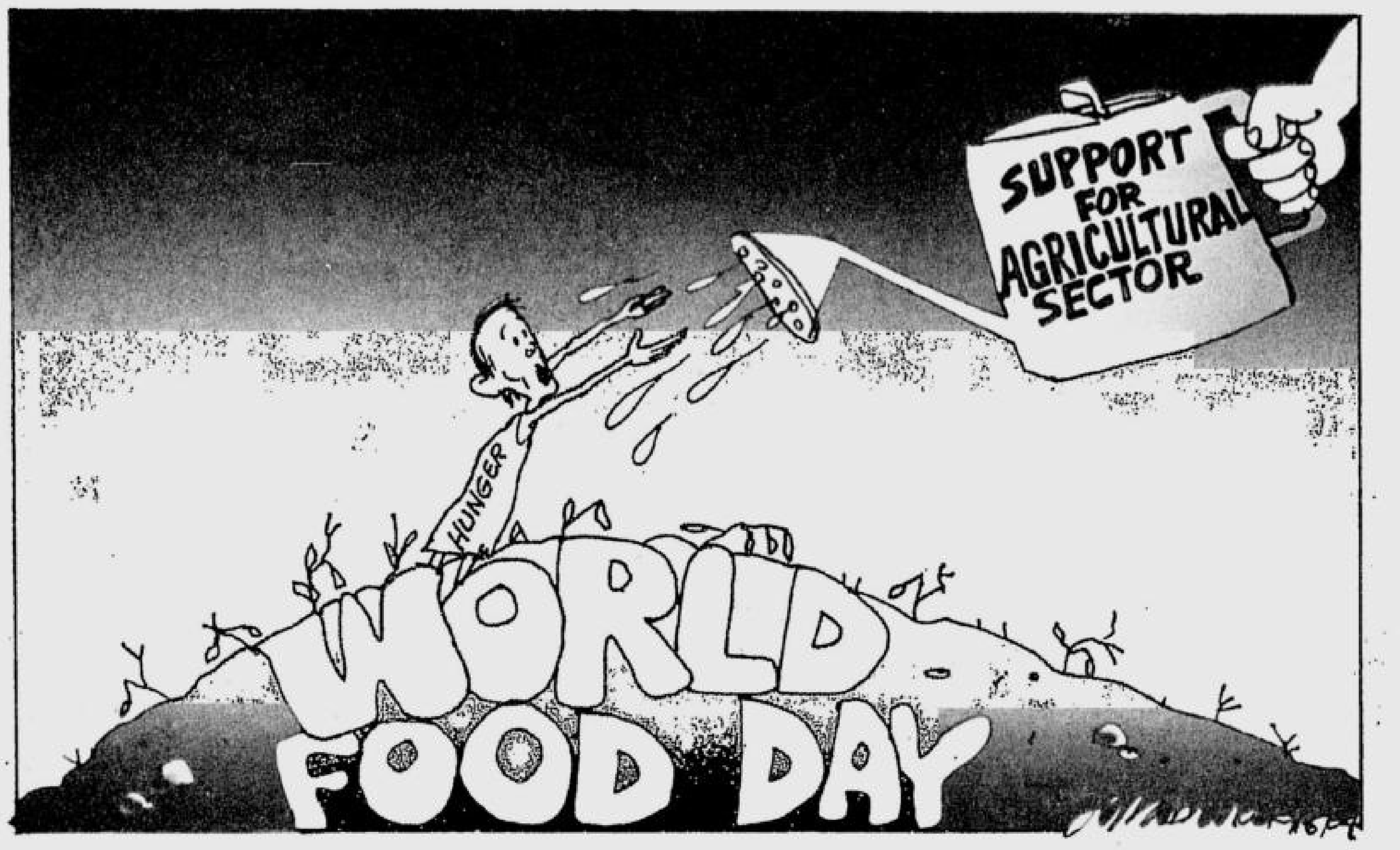


EDITORIALS

Fatal addiction

TO GET a vivid picture of life in these parts, imagine the multimillion-peso cash deposits in the names of Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, his wife and their three sons, their fleet of vehicles, as well as property in the United States, including a condominium unit in New York and a house in Ohio. Then imagine a couple straining to maneuver a pushcart through the traffic, their bodies gaunt, their clothing tattered, the pushcart, actually their home, loaded with a passel of grimy children and what amount to their worldly goods. Think of the shopping expeditions of Garcia's wife (apparently a regular, many-splendored exercise, else what are the five drivers for?), then consider the painstakingly methodical sweep that scavengers perform on the daily haul of garbage to be able to eat.

The act of imagining is supremely easy to do, the ways of the new rich being on tawdry display through their many mansions, and the ways of the impoverished being a sad, sullen part of the daily panorama. The polarity is nothing new, in fact ever present, a veritable part of the warp and woof of the Philippine social fabric—but now much sharper, more cutting.

The revelations coming fast and furious on the lifestyles of the rich in the Armed Forces are made more infuriating in light of official findings on the hunger assaulting a great number of Filipino households, to speak nothing of the alarming state of the economy. The "gifts" and "gratitude money" coming Garcia's way in the course of his performing his former functions as AFP comptroller, as so candidly disclosed by his wife Clarita to US customs authorities, give the lie to the Arroyo's administration's declared stance against corruption, and make of it a shallow, even laughable pretense. And the continuing horse opera of the congressional inquiry on corruption in the military, specifically the unexplained wealth of the two-star general who can't even be compelled to show up, hardly promises a solution.

No, it does not seem like the problem will see resolution in the near future. The "fatal addiction" to money that ex-military rebel Rex Robles talked about while disclosing the allegedly widespread corruption in the military appears as intense as ever, if one is to go by Garcia's case. It's probably true what they say—that some people just can't have enough of the good stuff once it's there. The addiction is complete and overwhelming. According to the conventional wisdom governing this addiction, there's no sense in turning off the tap when the goodness insists on overflowing. Two, three houses? How trifling. Get a condominium at the Trump Park Avenue. Forty bank accounts? That's only in the Philippines. A stash of $100,000? Only part of what Clarita Garcia said was cash received "for travel and expenses from businesses that are awarded contracts for military hardware."

But no solo trip

BUT for all that (including the astoundingly hick attempt of the Garcia boys to smuggle a huge amount of dollars into the United States in 10 envelopes stuffed in their shoes and their jacket pockets, as though they had never heard of money transfers), observers attentive to the ways of addiction would point out that this general could not have been acting alone. It could not have been a solo trip.

In the course of enrichment, it is only logical for the wise receiver of "gratitude money" to include others on the take, whether superior or subordinate, the better to make the "process" more efficient, preclude discovery, and ensure silence where silence counts.

In which case, Garcia may be of significant value. While recovering from his suddenly serious ailments and sleepless nights, he may be persuaded to talk about the apparent systemic malady in the AFP, the iceberg of which his case is said to constitute only the tip. (Imagine how far-reaching it goes. Again, imagining would not be too difficult to do, certain mansions in such elite enclaves as Corinthian Gardens and Ayala Alabang being such dead giveaways.)

Cleansing the AFP

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE REVELATION of the incredible wealth of Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, as recently exhibited by his two sons and later his wife to the US customs authorities, has again focused public attention on the anomalies, real or imagined, in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

There were reports of irregularities in the disposition of its retirement funds, the alleged corruption in the acquisition of military equipment, the mansions and luxury vehicles of some of the generals, and even the sharing of kidnap ransoms by certain field commanders with Muslim rebels and the Abu Sayyaf bandits. But all these suspicions did not go beyond the usual investigations after the grandstanding of the legislators.

The military had earlier been regarded as a mere ordinary agency of the government, but it acquired a new image under martial law as the loyal protector of Ferdinand Marcos. The effect was devastating. Generals began to swagger like congressmen, whom they learned to disdain as inferiors. Sergeants started acting like colonels. The strong-arm Abadilla stalkers wielded a deadly terror against the enemies of the new regime.

Marcos saw to it that the soldiers were well treated—indeed, spoiled—lest they turned against him. Their camps were improved, their perquisites increased. Even officers who had retired from the military were retained in the government as civil officials although there were better available civilians.

The constitutional mandate that civilian authority shall be supreme over the military has become a farce. Even after the downfall of the dictatorship, the Armed Forces have retained their power and prestige. The succeeding administrations have seen to that. The civilian presidents seem to be so terrified of a coup d'etat from the retired officers that they think it best to keep them contented. The way to do this is to appoint them to civilian offices for which they may have neither qualifications nor experience.

Eduardo Ermita is now the "little president" as the executive secretary. Leandro Mendoza is the secretary of transportation and communications. Angelo Reyes quit as defense secretary but has returned to supervise local governments. Many retired generals now occupy subordinate positions in the Cabinet where they may be groping in unfamiliar terrain. Victor Corpus, who recently finished his stint in the AFP, will be back as "reforestation czar," an office to be created particularly for him despite his lack of credentials for the job.

Back to Garcia, his superiors in the AFP earlier decided to have him charged before the civil courts rather than face court martial proceedings. Their reason was that they might be accused of a whitewash if the accused was acquitted. The AFP afraid? Was it considering a possible acquittal? We do have the presumption of innocence, but it may be rebutted with proof beyond reasonable doubt. Garcia will be hard put at justifying his extraordinary fortune—and in US dollars yet—with his monthly basic salary of only P19,381.

The latest report, however, is that they will court martial him, after all. Talk of indecisiveness—and from the top defender of the nation. What if we're in a war?

President Macapagal-Arroyo seems to be anxious to have no part in the prosecution of the general and is leaving it to the chief of staff to do whatever he feels should be done. This is a wonderful opportunity for the commander in chief to assert her authority if only to show her direct interest in maintaining the integrity of the AFP. Strangely, however, she would rather steer clear of this delicate and unwelcome responsibility. A stronger female president would have seized this opportunity to prove her mettle, but President Arroyo is no Prime Minister Thatcher leading the British forces to the Falkland Island.

Whatever the outcome of the case against Garcia, I hope it will lead to the wider investigation of the venalities in the AFP that triggered the failed Oakwood uprising last year. The Feliciano Commission which investigated that aborted coup suggested that a serious effort be made to study and correct the mutineers' grievances which were prima facie valid. Has the President acted on that suggestion?

Besides Garcia, several other officers are reportedly being investigated for discovered assets grossly disproportionate to their salaries. Another general is charged with falsifying his birth record to avoid his retirement two years ago. These cases may be only the tip of the iceberg, and a more serious examination of the conduct of military men may reveal more scandals. Past misdeeds that may have been covered up may even be reopened as part of the general cleanup of the AFP.

President Arroyo can vastly improve what she calls this strong Republic by cleansing the Augean stables in the Armed Forces of the Philippines. All she needs is the moral courage to face up to the crooked generals and other military grafters who have dishonored their now disreputable institution. She is, or should be, their constitutional commander in chief. She should have the will and the guts to act as such unless there are serious secret reasons for her dormancy.

'Solo flight'?

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

TWO months ago, following the release of a paper signed by 11 University of the Philippines economists, President Macapagal-Arroyo declared that the country was in the midst of a fiscal crisis. "We have to face it squarely, wielding our courage, resourcefulness and solidarity as a nation and people," she said. No Filipino of sound mind and goodwill can disagree with that statement.

Given the crisis, the government's roadmap to recovery, outlining the steps to overcome the crisis, assumes tremendous importance. It will be examined very carefully by the country's creditors, by potential investors. It will also be used as a guide for the government's own investment decisions. Thus, it is imperative that the roadmap, in the form of the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP), is credible and reassures all stakeholders that the government knows where it is going and how it intends to get there; and it has the means to carry out its intentions, given the constraints it is facing.

That MTPDP was launched earlier this week, accompanied by President Arroyo's "sink or swim together" remarks, and with presidential spokesman Ignacio Bunye's assurance that it was going to be used as a bible by all Cabinet members and government officials. That what was launched was not the full-text MTPDP itself, but a 13-page speech of Neda Director General Romulo Neri—which presumably serves as the executive summary of the MTPDP—accompanied by a 162-slide power point presentation, was in itself an ominous portent. While the full text was reportedly presented to the Cabinet on Oct. 5, its release has been held in abeyance, pending their comments, until Oct. 26. That can only mean, given the "launch," that (a) the Cabinet's comments will be considered either irrelevant or immaterial; or (b) that the full-text MTPDP was not really a full text and needed to be fleshed out by the concerned sector—the power-point presentations of some of the 25 chapters were very sketchy indeed. Either way indicates that the plan may not have been the result of cooperation and consultation among the agencies and the regions, but was a "solo flight" made by the Neda chief and his staff.

This is further confirmed when one peruses the available material. The "fighting" targets seem to be lifted almost verbatim from Neri's "Development Agenda: Our Tasks Of These Next Six Years," which he unveiled last May as his recommendations to the President and the Cabinet.

So what's wrong with that? Everything. Because when he unveiled that agenda last May, it was met with almost as much derision as its predecessor—Neri's so-called "747" Agenda—was. If one recalls, the latter was presented while Neri was still with Congress, but it was laughed out of existence because it targeted "7 percent growth for 7 years" (hence the 747 label), a growth rate which the Philippines has never achieved, much less sustained over any period of time. Undaunted, he tried to espouse it again when he was appointed to Neda, but the technocrats in the staff were able to dissuade him.

But he was not to be stopped for long. The Development Agenda no longer aimed for 7 percent for 7 years, but for 7 percent by the end of the last year of the Arroyo administration. This fast-paced growth, he assured, would lead to cutting the country's poverty incidence by half from its 2000 level by 2010.

How would this be achieved? Among other things, by an increase in the investment rate from 19 percent to 28 percent, part of which would come from increasing government infrastructure expenditures by P100 billion a year; and by an increase in exports from $38 billion to $50 billion within a two-year period. Just like that. And by the way, it would also be achieved by shifting to a parliamentary, federal system—no explanations why.

The unrealism of the Development Agenda was pointed out in no uncertain terms by me last May. At the time, I opined—and there was general agreement—that if this was an example of how planning will be done in the Arroyo administration, "heaven help us."

Well, not only has that Development Agenda come back, Neri seems to have removed all the brakes. The new MTPDP is now looking at the possibility of achieving a more than 7 percent growth by 2006; and in the last two years of the plan, at rates as high as 8 percent! In other words, by following exactly the strategy of the Development Agenda, Neri is expecting better results (he does not say why). Neri has traded his 747 for Ocho-Ocho (8-8).

The plan is bedeviled by internal contradictions, not to mention an enormous wish list, with no attempts at prioritizing, as if the planners face no funding constraints. No costing, no business plan. Utterly divorced from reality. A small example: it assumes an increase in revenue effort of 1.6 of GDP by next year (already unrealistic). At projected inflation rates and the assumed growth rate, that amounts to something like P80 to P90 billion additional revenues. But it plans to increase infrastructure expenditures by P100 billion. Plus, spend for 6,000 additional school buildings, and subsidize 130,000 units of socialized housing. Not to mention subsidies required to keep food prices low. Plus pay a much larger debt service bill, which spikes next year. Etc. Yet, the MTPDP expects that the budget deficit as a percentage of GDP shall decrease by more than half of one percentage point.

I hope heaven is listening.

No substitute for GMA's personal appeal

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

SOME unthinking members of Congress have opined that in view of the Senate's resistance to the urgent tax reform measures, it's better that the administration forget about them. They said that it would be best to instead focus on going after the 50 billionaires and 42,550 millionaires said to be among the country's most delinquent taxpayers. These startling figures were reportedly revealed by an official of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry at a recent Senate hearing.

The problem with this approach is that it's not sound. The FFCCI has issued a statement to clarify that the figures on big-time tax cheats have not been validated, but are merely the result of extrapolations which "may eventually be proven erroneous." This matter certainly ought to be looked into by the BIR; but in the meantime, Congress should not delay passing at least a couple of those tax measures in the next few weeks, if only to send the correct signal to the international credit-rating agencies that we mean to tackle the fiscal crisis.

* * *

Leading credit-rating agencies such as Fitch, Moody's Investor Service, and Standard & Poor's have repeatedly threatened to downgrade our credit rating if the administration is unable to pass those tax measures. As pointed out by the economists, a downgrade of even one percentage point means P20 billion more in our interest payments, not to mention the bad propaganda value. I read the statement of Bangko Sentral investor relations officer Cora Guidote, stressing the urgency of passing one or two tax measures. Asserting that "the credit rating agencies will not wait for us" (in fact, Moody's and S & P people are arriving soon to assess our credit rating), she lamented that the lawmakers don't have "a sense of urgency." Isn't this obvious from the way exposé after exposé grab the headlines? If the economy worsens, the citizens know whom to blame.

* * *

Since the ball is now in Congress, I wonder if President Macapagal-Arroyo would take real efforts to sit down with its members and appeal to them to pass those tax measures. I am sure that if she invited them to the Palace and appealed to their patriotism, they'd relent. This is a job that she cannot delegate to Finance Secretary Josefina Amatong and Trade Secretary Cesar Purisima.

* * *

Sen. Ralph Recto has said that the tax measure with the best chance of passing is the indexation of excise tax on alcohol and cigarettes—popularly known as the "sin taxes"—which aims to raise P14 billion. Its passage hinges on the cooperation of two business giants: Eduardo Cojuangco, whose San Miguel Corp. leads in the beer industry, and Lucio Tan, chair of Fortune Tobacco, the biggest cigarette maker. Talk is that Cojuangco has already agreed to the sin taxes and that he himself has suggested to Tan not to block it, reportedly arguing that passing that particular tax measure is far better than contributing individually to Congress members.

* * *

At our recent dzRH program, we invited Jeannette Carillo and Gina Arquiza of the Board of Investments to talk about the sunrise industries of call centers, medical transcriptions, animation and other endeavors in the IT field. We stressed that in view of the expected increase in the demand for Filipino IT services in the United States, there's need to tailor the education system to these industries, and to democratize educational access to the less privileged classes and to those outside of Metro Manila.

Happily these concerns are being addressed. Carillo and Arquiza stressed that to ensure the quality of Filipino human resources for these industries, the Board of Industry has established a partnership with the academe and industry, to formulate courses focused on communication and customer relations in an international business setting. The University of the East started offering an elective course on "Advance Communication for International eBusiness" last November. Two universities in Cebu and Dumaguete opened a similar course this school year, while eight universities in Central Luzon are offering it this second semester. PLDT call center subsidiaries also have a similar program in partnership with FEU, Lyceum, Jose Rizal College, MLQ University and others.

Cebu has been launched as another IT hub while Dumaguete's HR resources were assessed last August. The Department of Trade and Industry launched an E-Services job caravan, with pilot runs in the five Calabarzon provinces, early this year. Skills standards for the call centers, and for the medical transcription and animation sectors are also being developed under the guidance of Tesda, in coordination with DTI-BOI.

* * *

I share the nation's shock over the acquittal of former Assemblyman Arturo Pacificador, widely believed to have masterminded the brutal murder of former Antique Gov. Evelio Javier in February 1986. Evelio is one of the authentic Edsa Revolution heroes. His assassination just after the 1986 snap elections, whose results he was zealously guarding when he was gunned down, helped trigger the peaceful uprising. Those involved in the murder were identified as Pacificador's men. But the problem is that our justice system is such that a case that had seemed so airtight could end up in the way that we just saw.

I also lament the resignation of former Justice Undersecretary and Dangerous Drugs Board executive director Jose Calida, reportedly over differences with his boss at the Dangerous Drugs Board, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes. I've followed Calida's pronouncements especially with regard to the Oakwood mutineers and their reported "Kuya," former Sen. Gregorio Honasan. I found his views on the matter of prosecuting them so clear and courageous, and refreshing in a government dominated by woolly thinkers. Government's loss is private practice's gain.

Throwbacks to the Middle Ages

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ENTERING Megamall a few days ago, I found a frozen tableau, with almost all the shoppers and sales personnel standing motionless. I wondered if I was lost in an episode of "Twilight Zone" until I realized that the public address system was broadcasting the "Angelus," the Catholic prayer traditionally recited at noon and at dusk.

The episode struck me as symbolic of how the predominant religion of Filipinos has come to seep into almost every aspect of our private and public lives, such that even a supposedly "secular" commercial space—like a shopping mall—would ground to a halt in observance of a Catholic tradition.

That's how much we've come to take our Catholicism for granted, assuming that since the great majority of Filipinos are Catholics, then the minority, who are Protestants, Muslims, Hindus or Buddhists or non-believers, should bow to our dominance and surrender their rights when these come in conflict with our privileges.

It's unfortunate that the controversy being stirred up in Greenhills over the proposed establishment of a prayer room for Muslims has been reduced to a religious issue, with overtones of social and ethnic profiling. Reading some of the commentary on the Greenhills tempest, including statements made by residents' associations in the area, one is shocked that such blatant bigotry should still exist in this day and age.

Their reasoning is so full of holes, it's a wonder they're not laughed out of the newspapers one of their leaders publishes. "Mosques" will be used as sanctuaries by criminals? Well, we have hundreds of Catholic churches in Metro Manila, but how many instances have we heard of Catholic criminals seeking refuge in a church? All Muslims are criminals and smugglers? Wasn't Dr. Mahathir Mohammad, former Malaysian Prime Minister and a recent Manila visitor, a Muslim, honored by our country's business and political leaders?

Given the dominance of Catholicism in this country, can't we be a little more generous and kindly towards those who profess another faith? I'm sorry, but the opponents of the prayer room in the shopping center sound more and more like throwbacks to the Middle Ages.

* * *

BABES Sanchez, a champion of women's rights and reproductive health in Cebu, as well as a founder of the Legal Alternatives for Women Inc. (LAW Inc.), read a statement during the press conference held by the Women's Solidarity for Justice at Rolling Hills, Banilad, Mandaue City last Tuesday. The Women's Solidarity for Justice counts various women's groups in Cebu—LAW Inc., Lihok Pilipina, Crusade against Violence, and many other organizations—among its members. It was founded in response to the heinous murder of lawyer Arbet Sta. Ana-Yongco, who was legal director of LAW Inc. and an outspoken advocate of the rights of women, children and all those who, in the famous words of President Magsaysay, having less in life, deserve more in law. The statement follows in full:

We, the women of Cebu, are shocked upon knowing of the violent death of Atty. Arbet Sta. Ana-Yongco... It was so sudden and so unexpected. We are angry that such an act can be done in broad daylight without fear of any reprisals. We are scared with the thought that what happened to her could happen to any one of us. We weep with the loss.

Arbet was our friend and colleague in our work to promote the rights of women and children. She was an advocate for peace and had been courageous and determined in her fight against the violence and senseless killing of human beings. She was not one (to) be cowed when the fight gets tough. All these she did, while she juggled her multiple roles as mother, wife, sister and daughter.

We mourn today the loss of Atty. Arbet, our sister, our friend and our colleague in our pursuit for peace and justice in our country. We are outraged that a woman who devoted her life to end violence against women is herself a victim to such violence.

* * *

WE condemn the gruesome killing of Atty. Arbet. It was a treacherous and cowardly act to shoot a defenseless woman in her home with no inkling of the threat to her life. This is an affront to our democratic way of life and an obstacle to the wheels of justice, when people like Atty. Arbet are forcibly silenced.

We urge the police authorities and prosecutors to be diligent and persistent in (their) investigation so that (the) perpetrators and mastermind will be put behind bars to assure the public of their safety.

We call on the government officials to come up with a coordinated and well-planned program in solving murders and crimes in our country. Atty. Arbet's case just highlights the increasing criminality of our nation.

With her death, we come to value life more. As women, we will continue with our multiple roles in this society that is slowly evolving to be gender sensitive.

We will go on being loving mothers to our children, equal partners to our husbands and dedicated workers in the fight for justice. Rather than be cowed into silence with her death, we have become more resolute in our fight for the promotion of women's rights.

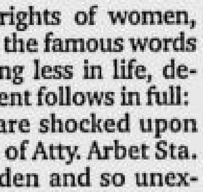
Yes, we are scared but we know that there will be many more Arbets if we will be immobilized by our fear. We will continue to empower women so that women are no longer victimized and marginalized in our society. We continue with our work to be able to provide a safe and secure home for our children.

Atty. Arbet has accomplished much in her 36 years in life. For us, she is a symbol of the fight of women to stand as equal partners of men in our society. She has inspired us to go on. We are pacified with the thought that our courageous and dear friend is now in God's company.

Filipino religiosity

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



IT'S quite interesting to observe the difference in the Christian fervor of the early Filipino converts and later devotees. In the early 18th century Fr. Martinez de Zuñiega was already complaining that we were not well instructed in the Christian doctrine. An 1886 Franciscan manual for parish priests deemed that the majority of Filipinos had no real understanding of their religion; they just memorized what they were told. Primo de Rivera, then governor, felt that our religious beliefs were confined to the observance of outward practices but didn't make any deeper impression.

French traveler Jean Mallat observed that we were particularly superstitious with lots of stories about ghosts, phantoms, nocturnal visitations, monsters and sorcerers. (We have since added fortune-tellers, spirit of the glass and now feng shui) There was even a story of a parish priest in Magalang, Pampanga who committed 57 murders after having been made to believe that his mother had been placed under a spell.

Early missionaries found that methods of government and religious beliefs were based on customs and traditions. Some traditions were preserved in memorized songs which the people learned as they were sang during work, play or celebrations and funeral rites when they were children. Genealogies and the deeds of the gods were also recounted.

Many of the spirits, known as *anitos* and ancestors, played an important part in the pre-Christian religion of the Filipinos. In 1595, Franciscan friar Diego del Villar found in the town of Lumbang about 200 important *likhas* or images and figures. Some were covered with gold; others with beaten silver and studded with diamonds and other precious stones, with enchasing and filigreed work. He threw them into the fire much to the chagrin of collectors, antique dealers and their ilk 500 years later.

The people had an abundance of fine earthenware for use in their religious practices, as well as various kinds of instruments used by the ministers of the idols, among them, old women who acted as priestesses.

Many newly converted natives were so fervent in their faith that they knelt all throughout the Mass and they heard not just one Mass but as many as they could. In Bicol, before receiving communion they would fast, do the discipline (self-flagellation) and abstain from carnal relations, even with their wives. Of their own free will, they would fast three times a week and throughout all of Lent. Some gave up rice and ate only boiled roots during the Holy Week.

They would make their own "Books of Hours" (a book containing the prayers of the Office of Our Lady for the various days of the week), which they would write in their own character and letters. Lives of the saints and that of Our Lady and other women saints were also written down and read frequently.

Penance and abstinence were also practiced with zeal. Some abstained from putting salt in their food; others stopped bathing—a great penance and sacrifice for Filipinos who were brought up to bathe daily. It was also quite ordinary for them to wear sackcloth, a practice that the priests tried to discourage as they did with self-flagellation so that they do not endanger their health. They would also get up to pray matins (chanted in monasteries at midnight) at home and "give themselves up to mental prayer."

During Lent, they would scourge themselves and draw blood, carried heavy crosses and perform other mortifications. Others set up their house as a place where people could go and practice penance and mortifications. Some hang from crosses, others put on weights on their necks, others drag weights from a halter as if they were beasts, which they considered themselves to be for having offended God.

Several reasons were given for our moral decline later, chief among them the lack of priests. There were 40,000 to 50,000 faithful in a parish so that it was impossible for the parish priest to adequately attend to the needs of his congregation for religious instruction. The further away people lived from the town, the worse the situation became.

Many were thus Christians in name only, though baptized at birth. The situation improved somewhat when the public school system became more widespread since the teacher taught catechism. Still many students merely parroted the religious teachings but did not necessarily understand what they meant.

In the 19th century there was a growth of folk Catholicism. The most well-known of this was Apolinario de la Cruz's Cofradia de San Jose that taught his followers to pray, which wasn't a bad thing at all. But as the number of its members grew, the authorities became alarmed and prohibited it from going on. The members resisted and this resulted in a violent protest that led to the death of poor Hermano Pule. Some of them, however, fled to Mount Banahaw. Forty years later, a traveler mentioned that Pule had named certain sites as "the mount of Calvary, the spring of Jordan, Purgatory, etc."

Once in a while, we come across articles about the Philippines as the only Catholic country in Asia, juxtaposed with its being one of the most corrupt as well. Makes you wonder, doesn't it, whether we really are practicing Catholics or just baptized?

(Data from Readings in Philippine Church History, John N. Schumacher, S.J.)

* * *

Comments to bambiharper@yahoo.com

Miss Piggy

YOUNG BLOOD

Ma. Genevieve Joyce B. Vergara

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I HAVE always been fat. When I was born—my Mama always tells her friends and mine—I looked more like a bulldog than a puppy. I weighed seven pounds and eight ounces, and Mama had to undergo an operation because one of her veins burst when I was on my way into this world.

Anyway, I grew even bigger as the years passed by. Eating vegetables, during those times, were taboo in our family. My grandfather—Wowo, we fondly called him—hated veggies, so we always ate pork, meat, chicken. Fish was seldom a fare on our family table.

I hated walking, so I was always sitting down, either watching "Sesame Street" or playing with my dolls.

When I entered preschool, I found myself in a new world. Mean kids would tease me and call me names. The one name that still sticks in my mind is "Miss Piggy." I'd go home crying to my Mama and ask her things like why other kids were mean to me and why they kept calling me Miss Piggy. Mama and Papa would explain that it was because I was fat. "*Totoo naman 'di ba? Bakit ka iiyak* (It's true, isn't it? Why should you cry)?" my Mama would tell me, adding, "*Mahal ka kasi namin kaya healthy ka.* (We love you that's why you're healthy)." Somehow I came to accept that being fat is being healthy and being loved.

I eventually stopped crying over the teasings, and I started explaining to kids my age that I was fat because my Mama and Papa loved me so much; and that they were thin because their parents don't love them. They then would end up crying!

When I was about to start my elementary years at St. Theresa's College, Quezon City, I had an accident. We were spending summer in Baguio when I fell off a horse. I broke my left elbow and I had to undergo two major operations. I was only 6 years old then. I guess I suffered some trauma from the mishap. I somehow seemed to have lost confidence in myself. I was afraid of facing people and of being alone and left behind. Then my parents decided: instead of getting me into therapy, they enrolled me in swimming, piano and ballet lessons. That was how I found where my heart truly belongs.

I discovered I love dancing and it became my passion. I remember I was the biggest girl in the dance school, but my teachers, Ms Vi and Ms Radaic, appreciated my talent. They complimented me on my dancing and they told my parents how graceful I was despite my being fat. I did recitals at the Meralco Theater and in Antipolo's Hinulugang Taktak. My piano teacher invited me to do intermissions at the Camelot Hotel and Shangri-la Plaza. I felt so proud of myself—here I am, a fat kid, but I can do things thin kids can't do!

And aside from the God-given talent, I have my Mama and my Papa who have always been supportive of me. They have been my encouragement, my constant guide and my inspiration. I also have a family who accepted me and never let me feel neglected or discriminated. My grandparents, my aunts, my uncles and my cousins appreciate my uniqueness and make me feel loved.

I am now 18 years old and will be turning 19 in November. This would be my last "teen" year. In my life's journey, I can say that I am truly contented. I have discovered other talents; at least that's what my Papa says they are. I write poetry, I do speeches and join in debates; I act, I paint, I design. I know I am fulfilled. I had achieved some of my dreams and goals in life; but still there are others in my long list, and it is definitely long! I want to finish my course, Asian Studies, at the University of Santo Tomas, graduate with honors and make my parents proud of me, and be able to inspire and touch other peoples' lives.

You see, being fat is not a sorry condition. You just have to accept your uniqueness and be able to discover your God-given talents. And as you go through it all, you need loving and supportive parents who would encourage you, guide you and make you realize how important you are in this world, and how you can touch and inspire other people to make a difference. Parents who would make you believe in yourself and trust in your capabilities because they know you can. And a wonderful family ready to criticize you because they love you and because they know that you can improve.

You need a brother, like mine, who protects me from malicious people and those who wish to inflict pain on me. You need friends who, through thick and thin, value, understand, appreciate you as you are and stay by you through everything. Above all, you need to believe in yourself and in God and remain steadfastly faithful to Him. He is the one who blessed you with gifts and who constantly challenges you to make you strong.

Quoting my professor, Nerisa Guevara, "You are in this world to face all fears so you can just smile at death." In writing this article, I faced my fear—the fear of being discriminated. The next time I will experience another teasing, I'll give back a smile.

Ma. Genevieve Joyce B. Vergara, 18, is a third year Asian Studies student at the University of Santo Tomas. She's a Dean's lister and weighs 200 pounds.

THEY SAID

Formidable corruption

"I have come to the conclusion that neither the pen nor the sword can stop corruption in the Armed Forces."

—*Former Army Capt. Rene Jarque, whose controversial article in 1987 enraged officials and pushed him to resign months later*

Necessary alternative

"Abolishing Congress is easy. Providing an alternative to prevent the possibility of dictatorship while providing a solution to many of our systemic problems is the difficult part."

—*Rep. Allan Peter Cayetano*

Divine silence

"As spiritual leaders, we condemn the sin, not the sinner. We don't expose people to ridicule."

—*Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla expressing relief when Archbishop Oscar Cruz refused to divulge the names of government officials accepting jueteng money*

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LETTERS

Apology not enough; Identify the brains

LOST in the apology offered by the Magdalo rebels are the names of the people who misled them into pulling off the coup. Nobody is talking about who masterminded the plot to overthrow the government.

The people demand that the Magdalo officers identify the personalities who aided and provided them financial assistance. This is the only way we can put closure to this sad episode. Isolating those soldiers who participated in the attempted coup is just half of the story. Those behind them and continue to remain in the shadows must be identified too, for this government and the people will never be safe as long as the top conspirators remain scot-free.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile is so wrong to say that a coup will not happen if there is good governance. Good governance is not a guarantee to prevent a coup. No government is safe against a politically ambitious and powerful politician or against a military establishment with a messianic complex.

—**CESAR M. DE LOS REYES,**
cesdlrey@i-manila.com.ph

Gov't role in addressing ADHD

I'M a mother of an 11-year-old boy who was diagnosed with attention disorder/hyperactivity disoder (ADHD) when he was 7 years old. He has been kicked out of school twice already and, right now, he's on a one-on-one setup with a private school in Makati. Also, I'm a member of the ADHD Society of the Philippines.

In reference to the article of Rina Jimenez-David on ADHD children (PDI, 9/22/04), it's true that we, parents, are faced with difficulty in finding the right school for our children. You really have to talk to the school administrator/s about their behavior and make them understand ADHD. Considering these are Catholic schools, if only they could understand how parents feel every time they expel our kids (like what happened to my son).

I hope the government could do something about this matter, like proposing a bill that would make these schools accept children with ADHD. I believe that the structure and setup in a regular school will help the child focus and will also help in honing his social skills.

—**ESSIE VELASCO,**
5164 P. Gomez St.,
Poblacion, Makati City

Correcting Migrante's misimpressions

WE wish to take exception to the letter ("OWWA omnibus policies unjust," PDI, 10/6/04) of Maita Santiago, secretary general, Migrante International.

The detractors and nonbelievers of the OWWA omnibus policies obviously cannot grasp the rationale and wisdom behind the implementation of the OWWA code. For one, it clearly defines the programs and services due the member-overseas Filipino workers who are the regular contributors to the welfare fund. We must remember that the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration is a membership organization and, as such, bona fide members deserve the right to avail of its expanded programs and services.

Realistically speaking, any membership organization, the OWWA included, speaks of membership qualifications in order to put things in proper perspective. But we assure you that here at the OWWA, we extend assistance to both members and nonmembers. As the vanguard of both the sea-based and land-based Filipino migrant workers, we are mandated to look after the welfare of the member-OFWs, without compromising the condition of nonmembers and the viability of the fund of the regular members. The OOP does not take anything away from OFWs.

To extend financial assistance to nonmembers is equivalent to encouraging Filipinos to work illegally abroad and avail themselves of the same privileges offered to the OWWA's regular members. Such practice will definitely discourage certified members who religiously contribute to the fund.

Contrary to Santiago's belief, there is no distinction in the repatriation of members and nonmembers since we adhere to our policy of serving the members and extending assistance to nonmembers.

To further enlighten Santiago on the issue, we suggest that she browse through the Frequently Asked Questions related to the omnibus policies at owwa.gov.ph.

—**MARIANITO D. ROQUE,**
administrator,
Overseas Workers Welfare Administration,
OWWA Center, 7th Street cor.
FB Harrison St., Pasay City

Highest paid public official not GOCC exec

THERE has been so much agitation to trim down the salaries and allowances of the heads of government-owned and -controlled corporations. Reports indicate that most of them receive a monthly compensation each of more or less P800,000!

The situation is morally impermissible especially because most of these GOCC heads get much more than the President of the Philippines—that is, excluding her intelligence funds.

But the highest paid government official may not be any of the heads of these GOCCs; it is not even the head of the Bangko Sentral. It is the Philippine ambassador to an Asian country. He receives a monthly remuneration of not less than $20,000, or more than P1 million.

I should know because we are the complainant in a case filed against the Philippine ambassador and six other Department of Foreign Affairs officials before the Ombudsman for graft, malversation of public funds and plunderous salaries and allowances—in violation of law and the Constitution.

—**NELSON D. LAVIÑA,**
nlavina@lycos.com

Side effects of contraceptives?

WE have been told over and over again by the government and other population institutions that contraceptive pills have no side effects. I think it's about time for the public to know what the real score is about this matter. Some sectors are saying that contraceptive pills do have side effects.

As a young couple living in a rural area, we are confused. We need to be sure that what we are doing with our family is right. Are there any materials or data we can read or refer to as to the truth about this matter? Would the good doctor and senator, Juan Flavier, please enlighten us on this issue?

—**GEORGE R. VALLADO,**
Davsan Subd,
San Fernando, Pampanga

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InqBox

Question of the Week

What should be done to the high-ranking AFP officials who are suspected of amassing millions of pesos in ill-gotten wealth?

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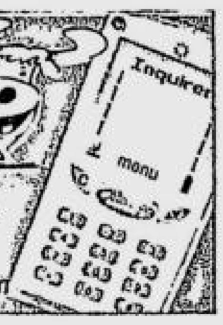

INQUIRER Visayas
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Photographs, memories of liberation

By Vicente S. Labro
Tacloban City

PHOTOGRAPHS showing the heroism of men, the destruction wrought by war, and a jubilant people who had just regained their freedom fill the rooms and hallways of an old house on Paterno Street, Tacloban City.

JOY IS etched on the faces of Tacloban residents, some of them waving the Philippine, American and Chinese flags as Liberation soldiers pass by. This photo is among the exhibit of nearly 500 photos at the Montejo ancestral home in Tacloban City.
VEN LABRO/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

Visiting the two-story ancestral home of the Montejo family on that street will bring one back in time and space to the last days of the Japanese occupation in Leyte, the coming of the Allied liberation forces led by Gen. Douglas MacArthur, the reestablishment of the Commonwealth government under President Sergio Osmeña, and the declaration of Leyte as capital of the Philippines.

Among those on display is, of course, the famous Leyte landing photograph showing General MacArthur, President Osmeña, Gen. Carlos Romulo and others wading in Red Beach in Palo, Leyte on Oct. 20, 1944.

Several pictures are also about the Battle of Leyte Gulf, the suicide attacks of the Japanese "kamikaze" planes on Allied Forces battleships, and the role played by local guerrillas led by Col. Ruperto Kangleon in paving the way for the Leyte Gulf landings, among many other significant events.

The pictures on display at the Montejo ancestral home, however, are not original photographs but are only reproductions of old photographs, magazines and newspapers coming from different sources, including the United States War Department.

Incidentally, at least eight of the war correspondents that covered the liberation of Leyte had resided for weeks in that same old house of Dr. Alejandro Montejo.

"Among them was William Dunn of Columbia Broadcasting, who is shown in the famous Leyte landing photo carrying his typewriter as they waded to the shore," said Alex Montejo, a son of the doctor and a successful businessman. He is now 75 years old.

'I have returned'

Montejo was already old enough to remember the war and the liberation campaign—he was 15 years old then.

Among the images forever etched on Montejo's mind was the dropping of leaflets. He recalled that in the morning of Oct. 20, 1944, during a lull in the continued bombings since Oct. 18, an American airplane dropped leaflets containing an announcement from MacArthur: "People of the Philippines, I have returned."

"Our hair stood when we read that announcement," he said.

Another image that stuck in his mind was the arrival in the city of the first batch of American soldiers.

"We heard shouts telling people to come out into the streets. A few moments later, we saw some guerrillas walking ahead, followed by a couple of tanks in the middle and by American soldiers marching single file on both sides of the road."

"That was the first time the people saw many American soldiers. They came from (the direction of) Pampango district, they were young and their faces were reddish," he recalled.

Montejo also remembered that the American soldiers were surprised that the locals spoke their tongue. "Even the (Filipino) children could talk in 'understandable English," he said.

He also recalled that at one time the famous composer and lyricist, Irving Berlin, who composed the popular song "White Christmas" visited Tacloban on his way to Tolosa to perform at the 8th Army Theater in that town.

Berlin also composed the song "God Bless America," Montejo said.

But when Berlin visited Tacloban, he overheard a group of schoolchildren at the Leyte High School, which, according to Montejo, included the young Imelda Romualdez, singing his song "God Bless America."

But a part of the lyrics was changed—instead of "God bless America," the words used were "God bless the Philippines." The

PHOTOGRAPHS/A18

I convey my warmest greetings to the organizers and participants to the 7th National Cooperative Summit.

This summit is very timely as we seek to pump prime our small and medium scale industries in order to create more jobs. As your theme, "Good Governance Builds Strong Cooperatives," aptly states, the principles of good governance must also apply to organizations such as the cooperative movement. In this respect, our efforts to open credit facilities to small enterprises should be supported with training on the principles of good governance and good management to ensure viability. Hence, this forum becomes valuable as a platform to promote good governance.

The challenge is to train cooperatives to manage their resources well. This will encourage our people to invest in cooperatives. This in turn will generate economic activity and jobs through the positive multiplier effect of investments in the cooperative's line of business.

I hope that this gathering will unite the various cooperative leaders behind our battle cry to beat the odds. Let us make small scale and development-oriented cooperatives work for the creation of 10 million jobs for the Filipino.

Mabuhay!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

I would like to convey my warmest greetings to my fellow cooperators as we come together as a united sector to celebrate the 7th Cooperative Summit on October 14 to 16, 2004 with the theme "Good Governance Builds Strong Co-ops."

This gathering is equally significant as the other cooperative summits in the past as it showcases again CDA's experience in governance and its collaboration with the cooperative sector in the promotion and strengthening of the cooperative movement. Our experiences in collaboration, networking, partnership and strategic alliances have indeed honed our expertise in providing for an improved and upgraded methodology in the delivery of the various services needed by our constituency. It is also in this kind of forum that a more solid bonding of an already united sector is further enhanced, and where the links of the sustained developments of the cooperative sector is aptly displayed.

This significant event is the realization of what we have envisaged for the future of the cooperative movement in our country, a movement with one vision, one mission.

Again, my heartfelt congratulations to the Cooperative Development Authority, to the organizers and participants for the success of this undertaking.

Mabuhay!

[illegible] ERNESTO C. PABLO
Chairman
[illegible]

On behalf of the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), I extend my warmest congratulations to my fellow cooperators on the success of the 7th Cooperative Summit on October 14-16, 2004 at Bacolod City in celebration of the Cooperative Month of October.

We recall with profound gratitude the contribution of cooperatives for delivering the best basic necessities for our people. The implementation of GMA sa Kooperatiba Program with the cooperative sector at the forefront of this activity, played an important role in providing employment opportunities and self-help livelihood projects. As we come together in this significant event, it is imperative that cooperative excellence should be the core of this summit. Hence, for us to be well responsive, critical and always ready to make room for improvements in the delivery of our services.

May this summit, therefore, serve for us to become monumental instruments of change in creating a more viable and sustainable cooperative sector. This is the only way that we would be able to make our ambition in leading the nation to economic growth and achieve prosperity for our countrymen. Rest assured that CDA is your dedicated partner in building cooperatives' lives for the better.

Maraming salamat at mabuhay ang kooperatiba!

RUBEN M. CONTI
Chairman and CEO

BEAT THE ODDS with Governance & Massive Advancements in Cooperatives

With 64,998 registered cooperatives in the Philippines, the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) continues to intensify its multi-faceted initiatives to unleash the innovative potentials of the cooperative sector. As CDA heeded to the significant challenges as early as January 2004, our milestones generated opportunities for our small-business enterprises like cooperatives fostering economic stability. Provision for employment, low-cost housing, medical services, consumer goods, scholarships, and among others are the services being rendered by the sector and CDA has always been its staunch partner in beating the odds.

Today, CDA rejoices in time with the celebration of the 7th Cooperative Summit, on October 14-16, 2004 at Bacolod City the achievements of its flagship program called Governance and Massive Advancements in Cooperatives dubbed as, **"GMA sa Kooperatiba"**.

GMA sa Kooperatiba is being implemented through inter-agency cooperation and collaboration with its development partner-agencies, namely: the Quedan & Rural Credit Guarantee Corporation (QUEDANCOR), National Livelihood Support Fund (NLSF), National Credit Council of the Department of Finance (NCC-DOF), and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) through resource mobilization for various financing needs of cooperatives including livelihood projects. The objective of the program is to institutionalize cooperative development programs that are geared towards effective and efficient governance and regulation of cooperatives. Its high-impact and mission-critical components are: **1) CDA-QUEDANCOR LENDING PROGRAM 2) CDA-NLSF Program 3) CDA-NCC-DOF-BSP Tie Up 4) CDA Express Lane Registration of Primary Cooperatives** and **5) CDA Learning Network.**

CDA-QUEDANCOR LENDING PROGRAM. This financing system has provided a total loan amount of 7.7 million pesos as credit assistance to cooperatives with viable projects. This has served as an additional working capital for the production, marketing, processing and other related activities of the beneficiaries including micro-finance projects

CDA-NCC-DOF-BSP Tie Up. The Standard Chart of Accounts (SCA) and the Performance Standard for Credit Cooperatives or COOP PESOS to regulate and supervise cooperatives with savings and credit services is now in place through the collaboration of CDA, Department of Finance through the National Credit Council (DOF-NCC) and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

CDA Express Lane Registration of Primary Cooperatives. A new environment based on performance and efficiency is the direction of CDA under the supervision of Chairman Ruben M. Conti. This simplified system of registering primary cooperatives, which takes only 2 hours to process and release the Certificate of Registration is part of shaping a new CDA. In its initial implementation, 21 cooperatives from different regions were registered. The express lane registration can be availed in all the CDA's Extension Offices.

CDA Learning Network. In pursuit of a well-developed and professionalized manpower within the Agency, CDA has embarked on a massive Human Resource Development Program. This program initially started granting six qualified employees a scholarship on Masters Degree in Business Management under the joint cooperation of Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP). Mapping the course of CDA with good governance includes the enhancement of our technological advancements. Statistical data, circulars, listings and other information that you wish to know about CDA and cooperatives can now be viewed at www.cda.gov.ph. We are confident that our service would reach more of our citizens as this innovation is expected to set motion changes that will foster rapid improvements for cooperatives and for the Authority as we bring ourselves closer to you.

CDA-SMFI Marketing Tie-up. CDA is honored to welcome SM Foundation, Inc. (SMFI) for taking part in motivating small business enterprises such as cooperatives to hone their entrepreneurial skills especially in marketing. 15 cooperatives from different regions participated in the exhibit and trade of their products during the launching of the SM Livelihood Center last August 5, 2004 at SM Bacoor and SM South Mall. The success of this venture made SMFI look into the possibility of replicating it in other SM branches

Interested parties can submit their Articles of Cooperation and other business documents to Cooperative Development Authority's Cooperative Project Development and Assistance Division (CPDAD) with tel. nos. 373-99-52 & 372-38-07.

CDA Chairman Ruben M. Conti is hopeful that GMA sa Kooperatiba, with the cooperative movement at the forefront, can sustain our vision of a Strong Republic.

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The **NATIONAL LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT FUND** has various lending schemes to cooperatives, rural financial institutions, LGUs, NGOs and POs which serve as conduits in relending funds to the small farmers, overseas workers, youth and jobless urban poor.

In its 23 years of existence, NLSF has a proven track record among its stakeholders. At present, NLSF loan portfolio has supported 251 coops, RFIs, LGUs, NGOs and POs in the implementation of their credit assistance programs. Total credits of P979,590,000.00 have been released benefiting 93,603 borrowers.

Through the NLSF-CDA partnership, the Governance and Massive Advancement in Cooperative Development **(GMA sa Kooperatiba)**, all cooperatives are pre-qualified to become NLSF conduit partners. In support of this program, total loans of P548,840,000.00 have been released to cooperatives and coop banks.

Without any government subsidy, the agency has been able to increase its earnings thereby expanding its services. Aside from microfinance, NLSF offers a complete menu of services such as capacity-building, SME financing and community development services. It has generated average annual income of P104.67 Million while offering non-collateralized loans with pro-poor interest rates.

NLSF has fully capitalized the People's Credit Finance Corporation with its P1 Billion fund exposure.

Programs and Services

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- **Special Tie-Up (STUP)** - Financial assistance for other segments of the marginalized sector usually in partnership with local government units (LGUs) and conduit partners.
- **NLSF-PCA Microcredit Program** for coconut farmers and their dependents.
- **Livelihood Development Program for Overseas Filipino Workers for OFWs** and their beneficiaries.

SME Financing Program
In support of the "Isang Bayan, Isang Produkto, Isang Milyong Piso" (1M1) Program.

Capability-Building Services
- The Community Business Development Center (CBDC) aims to strengthen the capability of cooperatives, rural financial institutions and NGOs in accessing credit funds and efficiently managing them. CBDC facilities are now operating in Davao, Calbayog, Palawan, Cavite, Bagulo, Cagayan and Zambales. These are run by the private sector and LGUs.
- Accelerating Capacities on Credit Extension Services Outreach to Agri-Agra Households (ACCESS) – joint program with the Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Credit Policy Council that seeks to establish village lending units (VLUs) that will link financial institutions with the farmer-borrowers.
- Agrarian Reform Community Development Project 2 (ARCDP 2) – Implemented with the World Bank and the Department of Agrarian Reform in 80 agrarian reform communities in 12 provinces.
- Philippines-Australia Technical Support for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (PATSARRD) – partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and DAR aimed at the social preparation of ARBs.

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Photographs, memories . . .

From page A17

schoolchildren said it was their teachers who taught them the latter.

Montejo claimed that Berlin had protested and told them to sing the song as he composed it. The musician also promised to compose another song exclusively for the Philippines. The song was titled "Heaven Watch the Philippines."

Sixty years later, Montejo could still sing the song which starts with "Heaven watch the Philippines, keep her safe from harm" and ends with the lines "Heaven watch the Philippines, and keep her forever free, keep her forever free."

Berlin introduced this new song in Tolosa, over the US Armed Forces radio station WVTK, also known then as the "Voice of Leyte." Unfortunately, when the war ended, so did the singing of the song, lamented Montejo.

AN EMPTY cigarette pack and an empty matchbox both bearing the words "I shall return" and showing the signature of Gen. Douglas MacArthur and the Philippine and American flags are among the war mementos on exhibit at the Montejo ancestral home in Tacloban City. American airplanes in Leyte dropped these items in October 1944. VEN LABRO/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

Nostalgia

Nostalgia could easily overcome the elders who come to the Montejo ancestral home today to view the photographs, like that of a group of American soldiers being welcomed by the people, of Allied soldiers mingling with the locals, and of the Independence Day parade in Tacloban in 1945.

The American and other Allied soldiers had stayed in Leyte until 1945 because the liberation campaign was still going on in other places like Mindoro, Manila and Lingayen.

Then there are also pictures of a carabao carrying American war materiel through a path impassable to motor vehicles, of a group of Leyte guerrillas huddled before a table with a radio transmitter, and a group of American soldiers resting at the foot of a life-size monument of a Boy Scout, which already stood there long before the war.

Aside from the photos, also on display are maps or sketches of the many-pronged attacks of the Allied forces, one of the "I have returned" leaflets, as well as packages of American cigarettes and matchboxes dropped by the American planes, and copies of the Free Philippines newspapers that circulated in Leyte during the liberation.

There are nearly 500 photographs and several war mementos on display at the Montejo ancestral home, which is now popularly known as Hotel Alejandro. The hotel is at the back of the old residential building.

In that old house, photographs are displayed in one room of the first floor and two rooms on the second floor. Display boards with pictures also occupy the hallway on the second floor. War pictures likewise hang in almost all of the walls on the second floor.

In some portions of the walls on the ground floor are old Montejo family photos in sepia.

Unlike the family photographs, which have been in their possession for several decades, the war pictures on exhibit were collected by Alex Montejo just about a decade ago.

The search for photos

It was only when the golden anniversary of the Leyte Gulf landings was about to be celebrated in 1994 that Montejo decided to collect souvenirs of the Second World War.

He started with pictures from an old magazine he had been keeping, which had a dozen war pictures shot in Leyte. Then a friend of his, Norberto Velarde, lent him 10 magazines with many pictures about the war in Leyte.

Montejo was optimistic then that he could hit his target of 200 photos for his exhibit.

He sought the help of another friend, Charlie Filamor, who plugged over the radio Montejo's announcement that he wanted to borrow old war photographs for his project. Some Leyteños lent him mostly souvenir photos with American soldiers and of an important event during that time.

Early in 1994, he had requested then Information Attaché Frank Gesista of the US Embassy in the Philippines to provide him with such photos if ever Gesista went back to Washington, either from the Pentagon or the US War Department.

A month later, Gesista called him up, telling him the photos were already at the US Embassy in Manila. Montejo went to the embassy and was able to copy about 60 to 80 photos. "They had many photos, but for the entire Philippine campaign. So, I just chose those concerning or taken in Leyte," Montejo said.

He also went to the Australian Embassy and was able to copy about 10 pictures of their ships that took part in the liberation of Leyte. He also went to the Japanese Embassy but he was told that they could not just give away photos without the permission of their Tokyo head office. He did not pursue this request anymore.

Eventually his photo collection reached nearly 500. "Now, people are asking how I was able to collect that many photographs," he said.

But to those who are close friends of Montejo, this may not come as a surprise. They know that *Mano* Alex also has a collection of songs of the 1940s, videotape recordings of war documentaries that include the liberation campaigns in the Philippines, and even an original voice clip of MacArthur's famous "I have returned" speech delivered in Red Beach, Palo, Leyte on Oct. 20, 1944.

Tanong ng Bayan
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ABC Tuwing Huwebes, 10:30pm

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Garcia at ibang heneral:Court martial o civil trial?

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"oo naman, hellouer! kaya lang afraid ang mga members kc nasa palasyo ang pintuan, ang daan pababa ng gsis!"

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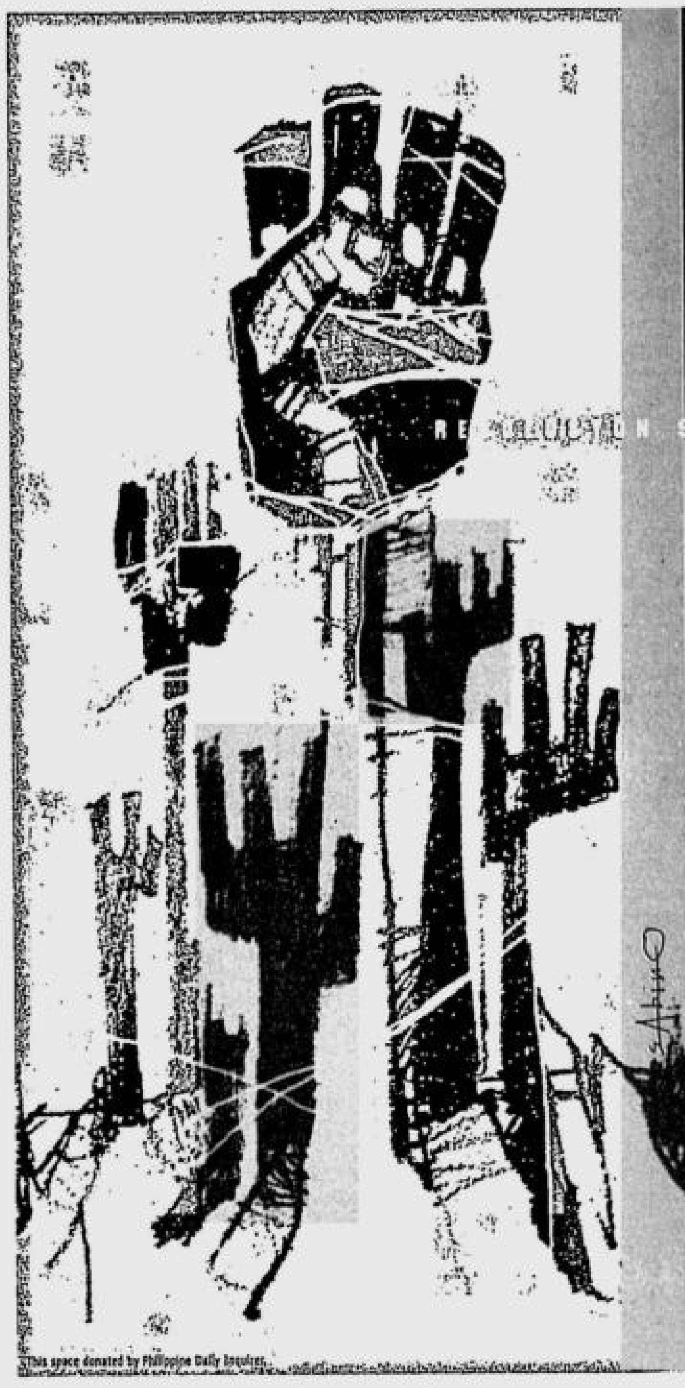

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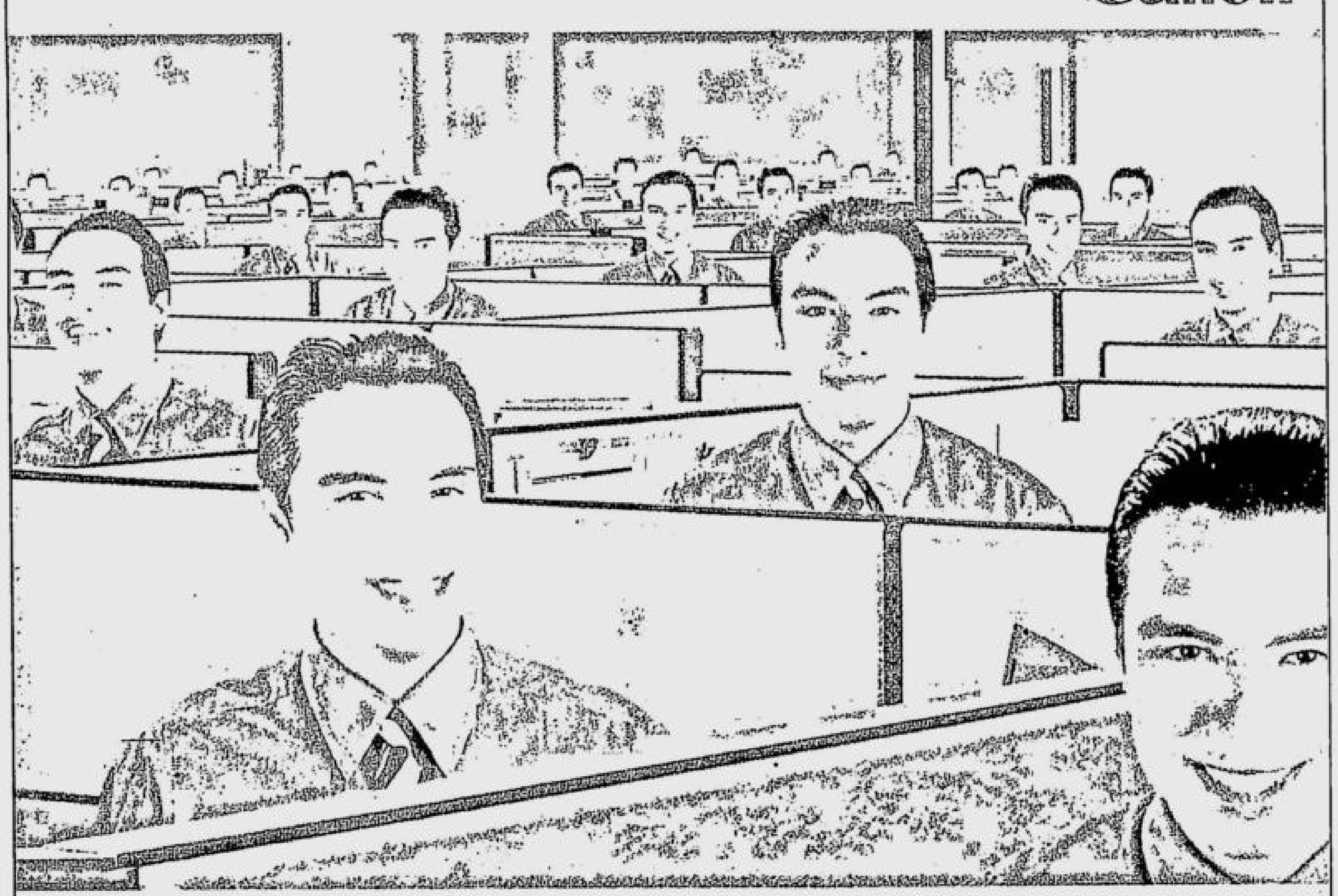

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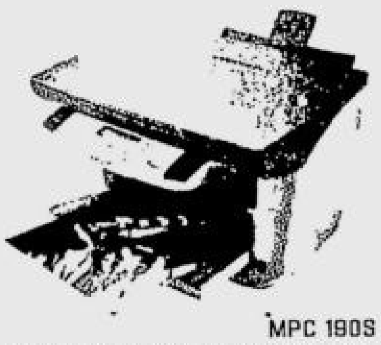

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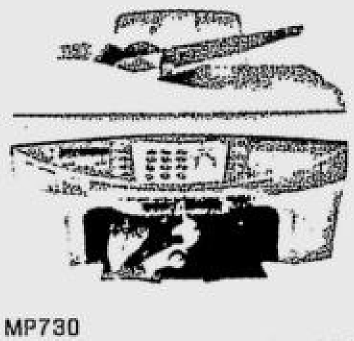

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Farmers' groups reject food coupons

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Hunger stalks the countryside but farmers' groups here are too proud to accept the proposed food coupons from the government because these are "devoid of sincere and serious solution to the problem of hunger and poverty."

Instead of selected help through food coupons, the farmers want subsidy to farm products increased, food assistance to hungry families, allow farmers to till vacant but productive lands, and stop the conversion of farmlands into subdivisions and commercial use.

They also called on the government to stop paying the country's foreign debt.

Nilo Arado, officer of Pamanggas, a group of farmers in Panay and Guimaras, said farmers are worse off since 10 years ago. He said the cost of production on one hectare of riceland rose from P10,000 to P18,000 from 1990 until now.

The farmers, he added, failed to recoup their expenses because the price of *palay* was nailed to P6.50 to P7.20 a kilo during harvest season.

Arado estimated that the average loss of farmer is P1,321 per cropping season or P437 a month in the last 14 years.

"The Department of Agriculture said production decreased because we use too little chemical fertilizers but this is not true. There is a deeper reason for that," said Arado.

Sanny Talibu, a farmer leader, said farmers in Iloilo and Guimaras are living with a measly P8.50 a day.

Data on malnutrition in Iloilo province showed a high prevalence of combined severe and moderately underweight children below six years old in 2003. There are 15,000 moderately underweight children while 1,080 are severely underweight.

The farmers said malnutrition is an anomaly in a predominantly agricultural province, touted to be the food basket in Western Visayas.

Yet, Pamanggas leaders said they will not accept the food coupons proposed by the government, at P1,200 for every poorest family in every barangay. .

Pamanggas recently joined the local chapter of the Philippine Councilors' League (PCL) in criticizing the plan of the national government to give out food coupons. The PCL said the plan is a dole-out and charity-type approach to address poverty. It might trigger more corruption and divisiveness in communities, it said.

The PCL wants to conduct multi-sectoral consultation to determine the extent of food lack in the province.

Joseph Lutero, the secretary general of the local PCL, said knowing hunger in Iloilo through consultations would guide local government officials on what to do with it.

The farmers said they welcomed consultations if only to show how long they have suffered due to a drop in production and high cost of farming.

Farmers urge hike in palay price from ₱6 to ₱15 per kg

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—About 100 farmer-leaders from seven Central Luzon provinces picketed the Department of Agriculture regional office here on Friday to start a new round of protests to seek an increase in the buying price of *palay* from P6 to P15 a kilogram.

The Alyansa ng mga Magbubukid sa Gitnang Luzon also launched the "Kampanyang Tulos" in Aurora, Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales.

The farmers planted placards on ricelands and along roads in protest of the government's "anti-peasant programs," according to Lita Mariano, AMGL secretary general.

"More mass protests are planned to make the government realize that its programs in agriculture are killing than helping the farmers," Mariano told reporters in Filipino.

While the price of *palay* has remained unchanged in almost a decade, Mariano said traders are able to jack up the prices of rice to as high as P24 a kg. On the side, government allows rice importation near or during harvest seasons.

In the picket, AMGL leaders also took turns criticizing the alleged diversion of P1.1 billion in agriculture funds for President Macapagal-Arroyo's election campaign expenditures last May.

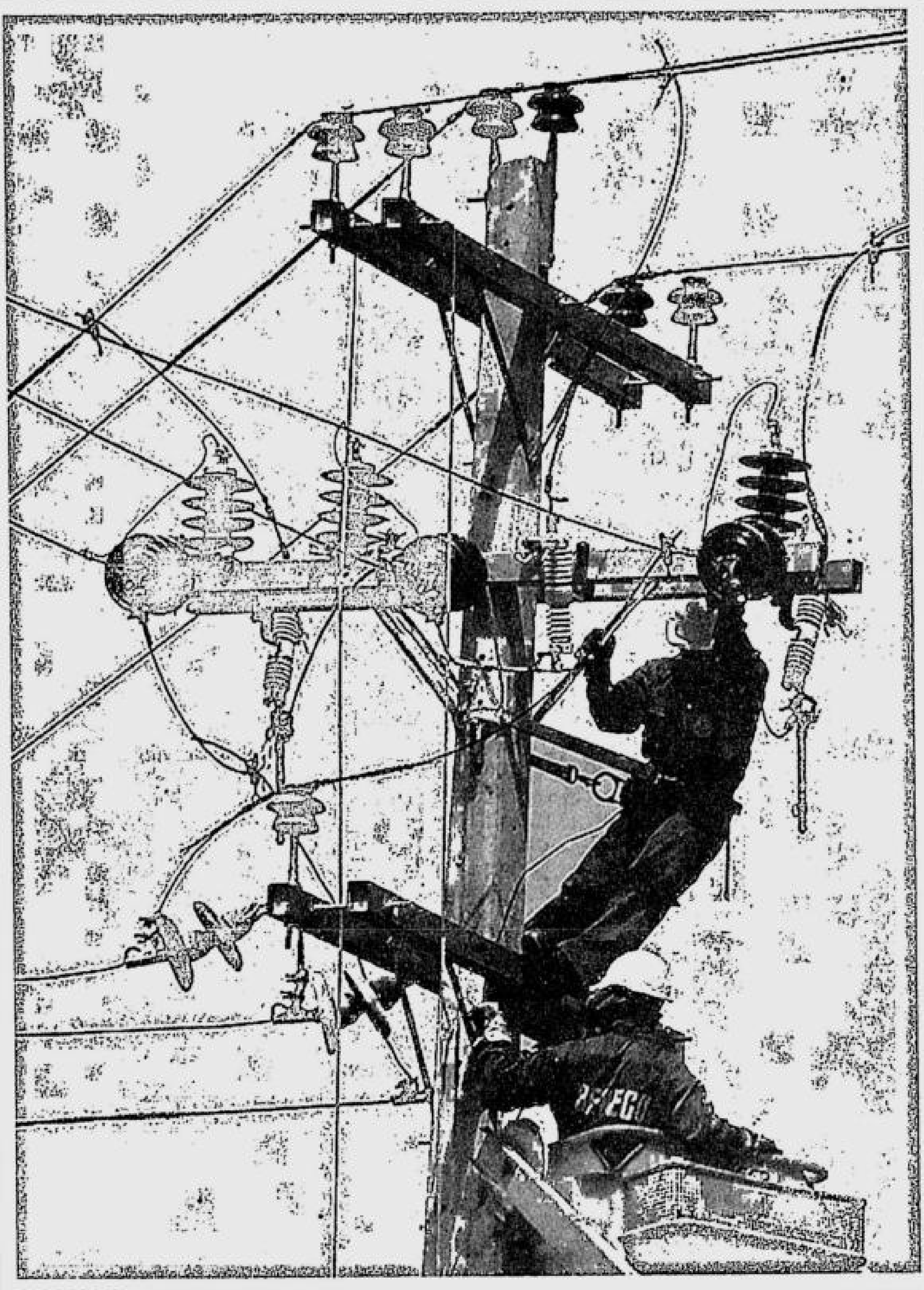
They scored the proposal to dissolve the National Food Authority, saying the agency should instead be retained and strengthened to be able to help farmers.

They also urged a stop to the promotion and use of hybrid rice, noting it does not yield good harvests, disallows seed stocking but requires expensive production inputs. Mariano claimed that the hybrid rice program benefits only agro-chemical companies.

"One of the best solutions in ending the hunger that has been stalking many Filipinos for years now is to help farmers improve production. That way, there is food security. But government chooses to look the other way around," Mariano said.

Farmer Anastacio Marcos, 76, said he has seen the worst of times now.

Marcos said the cost of planting rice has reached P12,000 per hectare from just less than a fourth of that amount in the 1930s. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

TANGLE
Workers of an electric cooperative risk life and limb to repair electricity cables in Baguio City during a recent power outage in the summer capital.

₱7M in equipment gives hope to ex-Moro rebels who turned to farming

COTABATO CITY—Farmers listed as beneficiaries of a government irrigation dam in North Cotabato got a boost on Wednesday with the turnover of about P7 million worth of farm equipment and implements.

In a simple ceremony, North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol accompanied by Vice Gov. Jesus Sacdalan and other local officials, turned over hand tractors, floating tillers and sprayers to the farmers.

Recipients of the equipment were various irrigator associations covered by the Malitubog-Maridagao (MalMar) Irrigation Project in Carmen town.

Oyod, MalMar project engineer, said the farm implements would help farmer beneficiaries increase their production.

The 41 hand tractors, 49 floating tillers and 179 sprayers were part of the government's assistance to the MalMar farmer-beneficiaries under the project's social component, according to Piñol.

He introduced the idea of a social component for MalMar and lobbied for the same with President Macapagal-Arroyo saying that providing irrigation facilities would achieve nothing if support in terms of farm equipment, inputs, technology transfer and financing are not made available to the poor farmers, mostly Maguindanaoans.

According to Oyod, Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan has expressed his full support for the completion of the irrigation dam "because he believes development would make people productive citizens."

The President approved a funding of P50 million for the social component with an initial release of P18 million covered by a Memorandum of Agreement between the National Irrigation Administration and the government of North Cotabato.

Armed conflicts brought about by poverty hindered development in the towns of Carmen and the municipalities of Pagalungan and Pagagawan in Maguindanao. The establishment of MalMar provided hope to farmers who opted to use plows and carabaos than carry firearms and fight the government. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Army says 2 NPAs slain; rebs say report 'drama'

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Two alleged members of the New People's Army were killed in a clash between communist rebels and government troopers in Cavinti, Laguna just before dawn yesterday.

Col. Tristan Kison, commander of the Philippine Army's 1st Infantry Battalion based in Cavinti, said they brought the bodies of the two still unidentified rebels to the municipal hall for possible identification.

Kison said the encounter happened at about 5:30 a.m. while a government platoon was pursuing rebels who earlier clashed with troopers, killing two soldiers.

Upon seeing the soldiers, Kison claimed the NPAs fired at them, triggering the 30-minute gunfight.

But communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal disowned the slain armed men and described the encounter as "a pure drama of the military."

In a mobile phone interview with the INQUIRER, Rosal said he phoned the NPA's Nilo Hatol Command, the rebel unit based in Laguna, who allegedly told him that they did not have any casualties yesterday or engaged the military in a gunfight.

Rosal said the military "was making stories to save face for the losses they suffered in earlier gun battles" with the NPAs.

He said the casualties could be innocent residents in the area suspected of aiding the rebels. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

2 dead, 16 hurt as bus falls into ravine in Zambo Sur

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Two passengers were killed while 16 others were seriously injured when a bus plunged into a 20-meter deep ravine in Tubod, Lakewood, Zamboanga del Sur yesterday morning.

Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, police chief for Western Mindanao, said Aileen Calonia, a 41-year-old teacher of Kawayan National High School in Zamboanga Sibugay, and Agustin Laguna, 72, were killed when the bus they were riding in developed mechanical trouble while negotiating a slippery road in Tubod, and fell into a ravine.

The Agence France Presse said the bus' brakes failed while it was negotiating the slippery portion of the road.

The bus was carrying at least 50 passengers but the exact number of those injured was not known as they were taken to different hospitals.

The wounded passengers were brought to a hospital in Pagadian City.

Querol said the Rural Municipal Transit (RMT) bus came from Subanipa-Olutanga in Zamboanga Sibugay and was bound for Pagadian City.

"The number of fatalities could increase as there are more seriously wounded passengers," Querol said. *Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

₱1.8B in shabu, drugs go up in smoke

By Jolene Bulambot
and Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—An estimated P1.8 billion worth of shabu and other drugs were destroyed yesterday, three weeks after they were seized in two shabu laboratories in Mandaue City last month.

Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) Director General Anselmo Avenido led the shabu burning that lasted for at least four hours at the cement kiln of 'Apo Cement Corp. in Barangay Tinaan, Naga, 21.7 km south of Cebu City.

The precursor chemicals used to manufacture shabu were separately burned at the Cebu Common Treatment Facility (CCTF) at the Inayawan Landfill in Pardo, Cebu City.

The burning started at 11:30 a.m. and was finished at 3 p.m. yesterday.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who was supposed to attend the activity at Apo Cement, was unable to come.

She was represented by Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia, who pushed the button of the calciner machine that burned the drugs at 1,200 degrees Centigrade.

The destruction was witnessed by Regional Trial Court Judge Marilyn Yap of Mandaue City, who earlier directed the PDEA to destroy the seized drugs.

The drugs and chemicals destroyed in Naga were 530.1 kilos of chloro-ephedrine, an intermediate product in the making of shabu; 529.9 liters of liquid solution containing methamphetamine, also known as the liquid shabu; 4,720 liters of liquid solution containing chloro-ephedrine; and 75 kilos of ephedrine.

The other toxic chemicals, including the 527 liters of thionyl chloride and 37 sacks of caustic soda at 25 kilos each, were destroyed at the CCTF.

Before the destruction took place, Yap and a chemist from the Philippine National Police crime laboratory, reexamined, reweighed and re-inventoried the seized items.

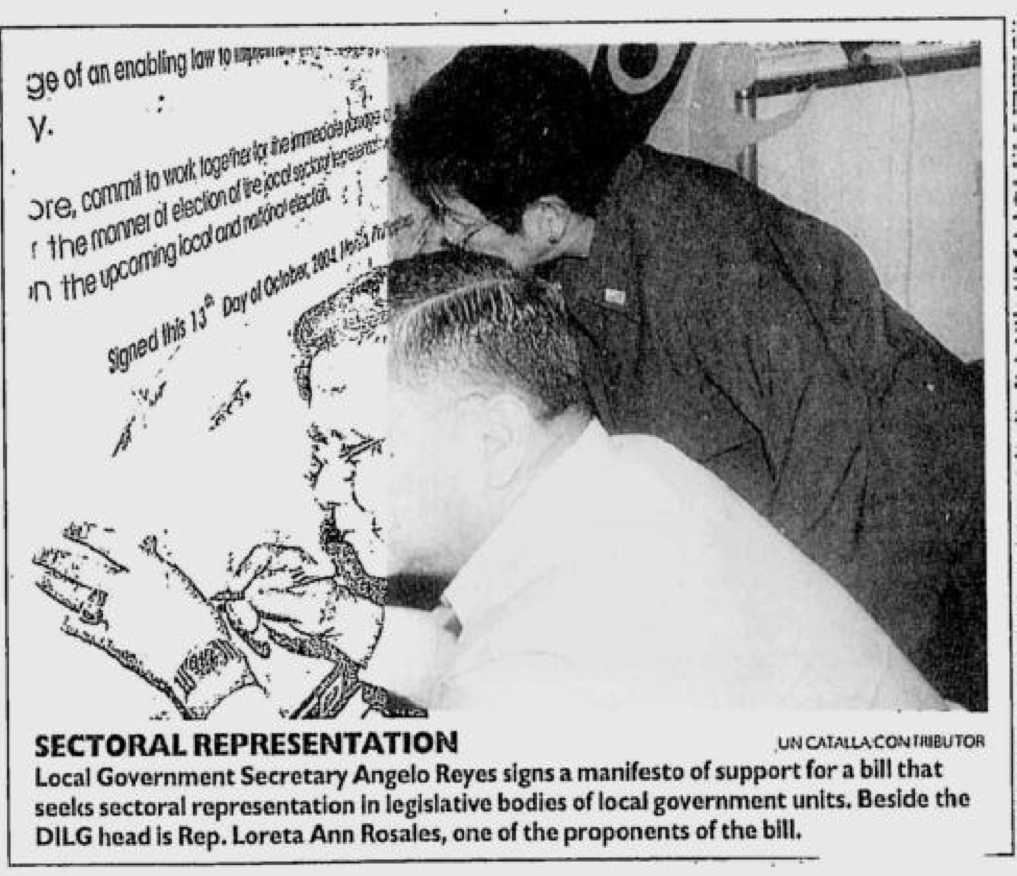
Jun Bayno, the electrical and instrumentation maintenance manager of Apo Cement Corp., assured the public that the shabu destruction would not harm the environment since the dust emitted from the burning would be filtered.

Also, there was no danger that the smoke would be inhaled by anyone since it evaporated the moment it met air, Bayno said.

To determine that the chemicals were the ones being burned, the chemists of the PDEA observed five steps prior to the burning of the illegal drugs.

Prior to the burning, Avenido also clarified that PDEA did not and had no basis to link Mandaue City Mayor Thadeo Ouano to the operation of the shabu laboratories raided in his city on Sept. 24 and 25.

Avenido said Ouano cooperated with authorities in the investigation. Ouano was present in the burning rites.



ge of an enabling law to
y.
ore, commit to work together for the immediate passage
r the manner of election of the local sectoral representa
n the upcoming local and national election.
Signed this 13th Day of October, 2004

SECTORAL REPRESENTATION
UN CATALLA/CONTRIBUTOR
Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes signs a manifesto of support for a bill that seeks sectoral representation in legislative bodies of local government units. Beside the DILG head is Rep. Loreta Ann Rosales, one of the proponents of the bill.

DepEd execs in a bind over textbook errors

'So what do you charge them with, stupidity?'

From page A1

Luz said in an interview after attending a Microsoft affair yesterday.

"Clearly we're going to prevent this from happening again," he added.

On Sept. 20, Marian School academic supervisor Antonio Calipjo Go called the public's attention to the fact that the 316-page Asya book used by second-year public high school students contained 431 errors.

After initially dismissing Go's claims, the DepEd admitted that the errors are there and that they would issue a teachers' corrections guide by November.

Brief history of errors

The DepEd first approved the textbook in 1997 during the term of Secretary Ricardo Gloria.

In 1999 and 2001, during the terms of Raul Roco and Bro. Andrew Gonzales FSC, respectively, the DepEd procured more than a million copies of the textbook under World Bank and Asian Development Bank loan facilities.

"You want us to go after Secretary Roco? He approved it. You want us to go after Bro. Andrew, or Secretary Gloria?" Luz asked rhetorically.

According to sources, the three evaluators who approved the Asya textbook are from DepEd. However, the two have reportedly left the department.

Luz, who joined DepEd in October 2002, said they still had to establish why these evaluators approved the textbook with 431 errors.

Based on interviews with other DepEd staff, it appeared that subsequent evaluators in 1999 and 2000 just assumed that the Asya textbook was acceptable since it already passed evaluation in 1997.

The textbook has been in circulation for 14 years.

Since the DepEd approved the textbook during a competitive bidding, Luz said it was not easy to hold SD Publications nor the authors accountable.

"Antonio Go is correct. When the department is the one that reviews and evaluates [a textbook] and then says the content is accurate, to some extent you take the liability from the publisher. Evaluation is really our responsibility and that's why we have to take more care in evaluation," Luz said.

More errors

On Oct. 11, Go exposed that three other DepEd textbooks have errors, "Kasaysayan ng Daigdig" (SD Publications) for third year high school students and "Science and Technology for the Modern World" (Diwa Scholastic Press) for first and second year high school students.

ABAD

The two science textbooks were supposedly disapproved in 2001 for errors, but they are still being used. "Science and Technology for the Modern World II" was even among the textbooks that DepEd procured in 2002.

Luz said it was not yet clear to him how this happened. He said it was possible that the textbook was revised, resubmitted the next year and approved.

Go, however, pointed out that errors still exist in the textbooks' latest edition.

Luz said they have asked University of the Philippines faculty members to check the two history textbooks and the two science textbooks so they could correct it.

"Whatever they say, we'll follow. We've already admitted that there are mistakes in the Asya book and we'll correct it," he said.

Go has also renewed his demand for an apology from the DepEd for maligning him.

Luz, who had initially imputed malice on Go's part, acknowledged Go's help.

"Secretary (Florencio Abad) in his letter (to the media Oct. 12) did in fact acknowledge Mr. Go's contribution in this regard. (Go) raised the issue and we're duty bound to act on it, notwithstanding the fact that we reacted in the way that we did. Now that that part is in the past, we acknowledge that the points that he raised are legitimate and should be looked at," Luz said.

To catch . . .

From page A1

Most people believe they could easily detect such lying behavior, but in fact most miss a good 50 percent of lies, says deception expert Maureen O'Sullivan of the University of California, San Francisco.

But O'Sullivan says she has found a special group—just 1 percent of those she has tested—who catch a lie nearly 90 percent of the time.

"We call them wizards," O'Sullivan told a briefing sponsored by the American Medical Association on Thursday.

"Wizardry is a special skill that seems magical if you don't have it." These wizards have a special ability to ferret out little tics that show when a person is lying.

She and her colleagues have so far screened 13,000 people for their ability to catch a liar on videotape. "We found 14 people who we called ultimate experts," she said.

They could tell when people deliberately lied about feelings, committing a crime or their own opinions.

How they do it

Another 13 were good at detecting specific types of lies.

For example, she said, "There was a group of cops who got very good scores—they got 80 percent or more on crime but none of them did well on the video about feeling."

Now O'Sullivan is trying to find out how they do it. She finds they have little in common so far, except a motivation to catch liars. Some have advanced degrees, some only a high school education. About 20 percent had alcoholic parents.

"They are located all over the country. We sit down and go over the ... videotapes. I ask them to think aloud. I tape record them thinking aloud," she said.

While most people know to look for certain cues as a person lies, these wizards intuitively find an individual's peculiar cues. One may shrug when lying, and another may make fleeting expressions of disgust or even amusement.

"There are lots of clues. The problem is how do you put them together and how to make any sense of them?"

O'Sullivan said her findings could help train better lie detectors—for instance, federal agents or therapists who need to know when someone is telling the truth.

She is not sure about other real-world applications.

"We have made an offer to the federal government that it might be interesting to have them as sort of panel when they have high profile investigations," she said.

What about analyzing the presidential debates between President George W. Bush and his Democratic challenger, Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry?

O'Sullivan just laughed. *Reuters*

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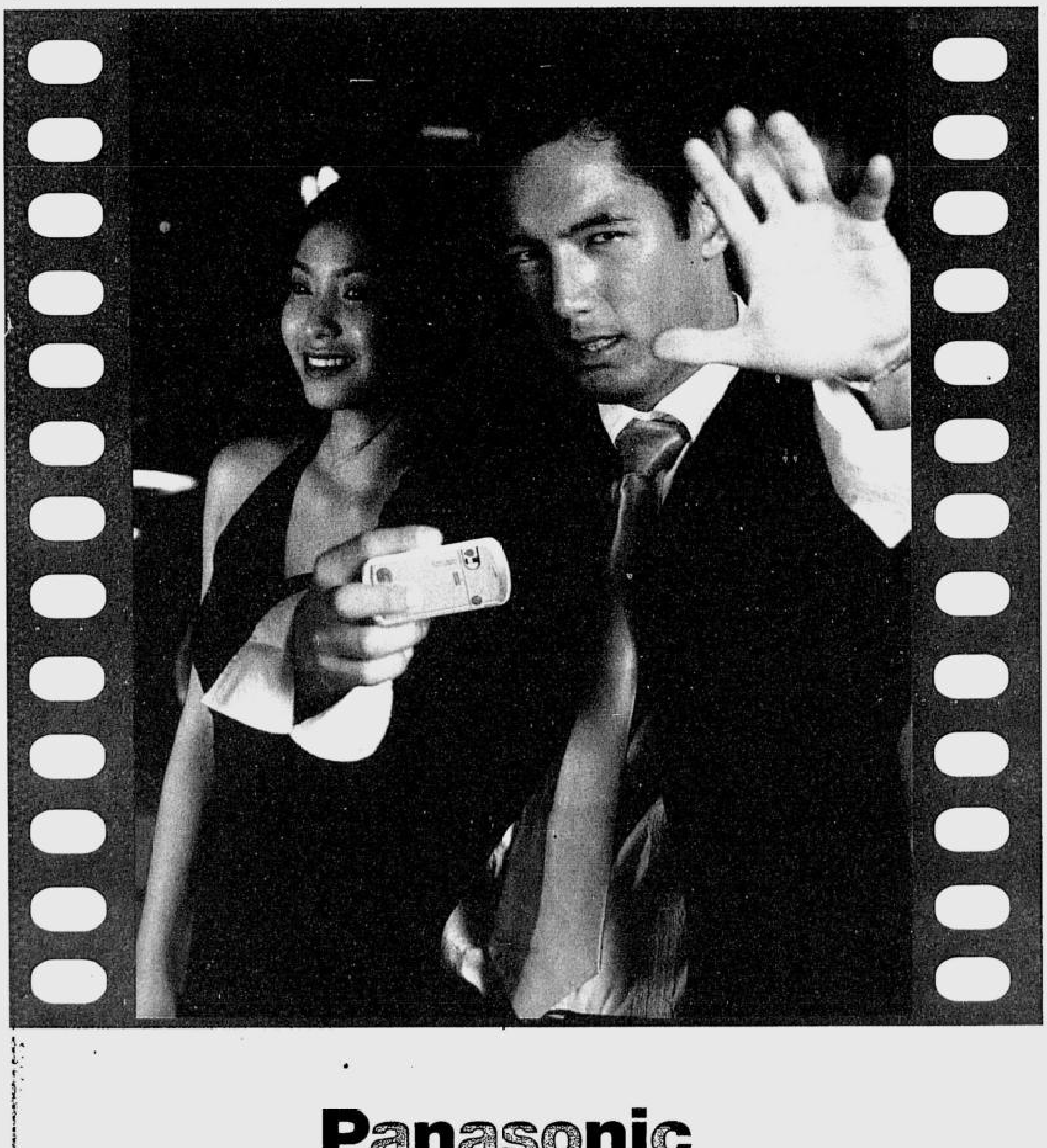

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SUERTRES 0 0 8

FOUR DIGIT 3 6 7 2

(In exact order)

MEGALOTTO 6/45 3 21 28 30 31 44

4 suspected car thieves shot dead

By Tina G. Santos

FOUR suspected car thieves were killed in a 10-minute shootout with the Traffic Management Group (TMG) yesterday afternoon in Quezon City.

Although the four have yet to be identified, authorities believe that the group were members of a car theft syndicate.

The chase between the suspects and traffic authorities began at Camichile street near A. Bonifacio Avenue, and ended at Luis Andrade Street, Barangay Balingasa around 1:30 p.m.

Police said a green Nissan Urvan with the suspects on board was initially spotted at a checkpoint on Camachile. TMG detectives immediately alerted other colleagues as the van carried a license plate (URB-761) that belonged to a stolen Honda Civic.

At the corner of Araneta Avenue and Sto. Domingo Street, a mobile patrol car flagged down the van. But instead of slowing down, the van sped off.

A gun battle ensued, and when the smoke cleared, all four suspects lay dead.

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza and Philippine National Police chief Director General Edgar Aglipay smash video 'karera' machines confiscated by men from the National Capital Region Police Office, the Western Police District, and the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

COPS IN VIDEO 'KARERA'

Coddlers' time up

By Leila B. Salaverria and Tarra V. Quismundo

FIFTEEN policemen in Metro Manila suspected of being protectors of illegal gambling operations have been ordered dismissed as part of the police's intensified anti-gambling drive.

Director Avelino Razon, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), who was among officials who led the dismantling yesterday of 170 confiscated video 'karera' machines, said "persistent reports" from intelligence operatives named the lawmen as protectors of illegal gambling operations.

Razon did not give the names of the 15 policemen, but said the list included a Senior Inspector (police captain), an SP03 and a P03.

Also present at the destruction of the machines were Philippine National Police chief Director General Edgar Aglipay, Western Police District director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

The NCRPO chief said the move to dismiss the 15 policemen would put pressure on other colleagues suspected of coddling illegal gambling activities.

"This has been going on for some time now, and the people themselves have been naming these policemen as protectors," he added.

The erring policemen would be subjected to an investigation and would face charges if the accusations are true, said Razon.

Around 170 video karera machines were destroyed at the Bonifacio Shrine in Manila, with police officials and the city mayor taking turns in hitting the machines with sledgehammers.

Half of the machines were seized in raids in a month-long operation conducted by NCRPO operatives.

Twenty were confiscated by the WPD, while the rest came from other districts in Metro Manila and from raids conducted by the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

"These activities have persisted because of police protection. I hope they would arrest the guilty policemen and remove them from the service," said Atienza.

"The suspects, if found guilty, might say that they would just resign. Excuse me, but they must be imprisoned," he added.

Atienza zeroed in on policemen tagged in video karera operations, and said that it was "public knowledge" that these men were either protectors or operators of gambling machines that allowed its patrons to lose lots of money.

"Video karera operations in Manila definitely enjoy the protection of certain men in the force," the mayor said.

"We would like to rid Manila of these machines because the youth are at the losing end," Atienza added, noting that young people are its most frequent players.

Dialog is best–bishops

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE BISHOPS-ULAMA Conference yesterday appealed for religious tolerance and calm as the prayer room controversy at the Greenhills Shopping Center continues to heat up, with text messages now circulating about the alleged presence of the bandit group Abu Sayyaf in the center.

The BUC, composed of bishops, priests and leaders of the Catholic, Protestant and Muslim churches at the forefront of the peace effort in Mindanao, also urged Greenhills residents to conduct a dialogue with Muslim traders, for whom the prayer room is being built, to clear the air and allay fears.

Archbishop Fernando Capalla of Davao City reminded those who oppose the establishment of the prayer room that a mosque stands at the Vatican in Rome, and that even the Pope has congratulated the Muslims for building the structure.

Closer to home, Marawi City Muslims have welcomed the Catholic Prelature in their Islamic city. It has flourished there in the last three decades, Capalla said.

Still want to take a cab? Fare up today

By Clarissa C. Batino

CAB DRIVERS that had submitted their meters to calibration, testing and sealing will charge passengers a flag-down rate (covering the first 500 meters) of P30, P2.50 for every succeeding 300 meters, and P2.50 for every two minutes of waiting time starting today.

The new rates reflect a P5 increase in the flag-down rate, and an additional P.50 for the succeeding distance and waiting time.

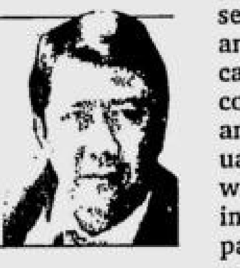
Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board Chair Maria Elena Bautista said that of the 42,000 registered taxis, only 10 percent or about 4,400 had paid the fees and charges needed to calibrate the meters. Of the registered cabs, 5,766 FXs or mega taxis are not covered by the fare hike after a group of mega taxi operators filed a petition questioning the provisions included in the Sept. 30 fare hike order.

Meanwhile, transport groups said they would stage a nationwide strike this month because the fare hike they had asked for earlier was not enough.

Erap to have hard time in interview with kid

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo



THAT blast about the declared assets of Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes came way, way from left field.

Meaning, it was a bomb exploded from out of the blue at a peculiar time when everyone's attention is not on him but on another general who's whiling away his time, counting his fortunes in his hospital suite.

From where I sit, however, that bomb against Reyes was a dud, an observation shared by many who read the account and who know Angie (Reyes' nickname).

One can argue with the way Secretary Reyes runs the Department of Interior and Local Government, a former official from the military establishment.

But throwing a worn-out issue against him is way off the mark.

Some well-placed sources tell me that two brothers, both in politics, had a hand in this anti-Reyes operation.

As Reyes said in a radio interview: "They can do so much, but in the final analysis, the truth will bear me out."

This writer agrees.

* * *

Former President Erap will really have a hard time answering questions from a Grade 6 pupil, Keeshia Rose D. Wee, in an interview for the kid's school report.

The Sandiganbayan has allowed the child to interview the deposed President.

Here are some of the questions to be fielded:

- **What was your main goal as President?**
- **What was your routine schedule?**
- **How much time did you spend at work? With family?**

If Erap will be honest, the answer to the first question: None. Erap didn't have any goal at all. He thought the presidency was a just a game. And so, to Erap the goal is a basket that one puts the ball into. It was all play and no work for Erap when he was the resident of Malacañang.

His routine schedule? Having nightly drinking sessions with friends and members of the so-called Kitchen Cabinet; consorting with women and looking for new sexual partners; gambling with friends, and spending time with paramours. That was his routine.

How much time did the former President spend at work and with his family? What work? Which family, since there are plenty of them.

* * *

Three times in a row, Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia did not attend the hearing of two House committees investigating him on his alleged unexplained wealth.

Garcia refused to attend the hearing despite the assessment of his private physician, Ivan Villespin, that he was fit to testify.

There's an old Tagalog saying, "*Mahirap gisingin ang nagtutulog-tulugan* (A person who pretends to sleep can't be roused)."

Garcia is not sick. He's just pretending to be sick.

Garage sale at Valle Verde 4 today

HOLIDAY shoppers are well advised to rush to Valle Verde 4 in Pasig City today for its village-wide garage sale.

The sale features 50 booths selling "ukay-ukay," garden products, fashion accessories, toys, home decors and appliances, old furniture, costume jewelry and other items sure to delight and to suit the budget of the generous giver this Christmas.

Car fanciers will have a chance to test drive their favorite luxury car—Volvo, BMW, Porsche, Ford, Honda and Toyota, to name a few.

The car companies have agreed to a discount if a sale is made on the spot.

The sale will be held at the basketball court from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

It is also a fund-raiser to extend assistance to charity projects sponsored by the village.

Those who want to avoid the Christmas rush by shopping for their gifts early may want to make their way to the village today.

Enter Valle Verde 4 either through the Ortigas Ave. gate or through Julia Vargas Street.

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Dr. Vox	Eegor	101293
Dr. Vox	Frankie	101294
Dr. Vox	The Dark Lord	101295
Dr. Vox	Wolfie	101296
Jon Santos	Ang Ganda ng Costume Mo	101297
Jon Santos	Bampira	101298
Jon Santos	Costume na Mahirap Gawin	101299
Jon Santos	Ekonomiyang Nakakatakot	101300
Jon Santos	Halloween Disguise	101301
Jon Santos	Happy Halloween From Ate V	101302

ARTIST	TITLE	RING ID
Giselle Sanchez	Multong Utot	101580
Giselle Sanchez	Natakot Ka Ba	101581
Giselle Sanchez	Scary Sounds	101582
Giselle Sanchez	Takot Jologs	101583
Giselle Sanchez	Tunog Takot	101584
JM Rodriguez	Favorite Horror Show	101585
JM Rodriguez	Tunakbo Ka Na	101586
JM Rodriguez	7 Days	101587
JM Rodriguez	Don't Be Afraid	101588
JM Rodriguez	Backmask	101589
JM Rodriguez	Spirit of the Glass	101590

CELEBRITY GREETINGS

ARTIST	TITLE	RING ID
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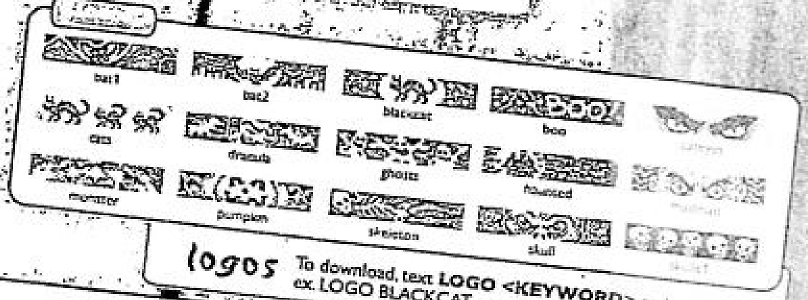

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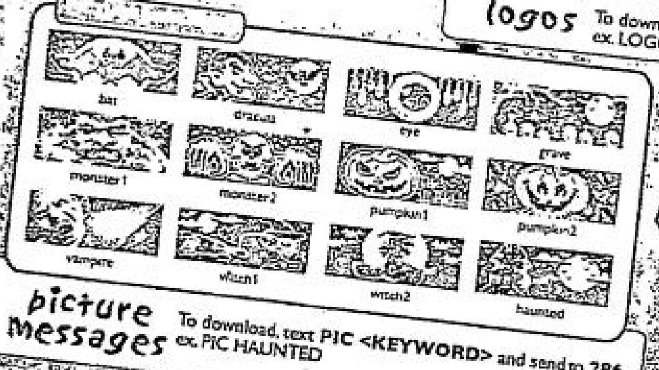

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AUGUST DELA CRUZ

SHELL'S Billy Mamaril (right) swipes the ball off SLR's Marlou Aquino.

Pinoys ranked 41st in Olympiad

IF RATINGS are going to be the sole basis, then the Philippines has small chances of hitting its Top 10 target in the 36th Chess Olympiad which starts today in Mallorca, Spain.

The Filipinos are ranked only 41st among the 131 teams entered in the men's division of the biennial meet which will run up to Oct. 30. Fact is, with its average Elo of 2500, the Philippines is even ranked lower than Vietnam (2515) among Southeast Asian entries .

Usually, however, the Philippines has always surpassed its seeding, going as high as a share of seventh in the 1988 Thessaloniki, Greece, edition. In Bled, Solvenia, two years ago, the Filipinos wound up 39th, two notches better than the touted Americans.

This year, the Filipinos should again cracked the top 30 with Grandmasters Eugene Torre and Joey Antonio and GM-elect Mark Paragua manning the first three boards. Completing the team are IM Jayson Gonzales, NM Darwin Laylo and NM Emmanuel Sendaor.

The ladies squad, which is ranked only 64th, is composed of WFM Sheerie Joy Lomibao, WIM Beverly Mendoza Beverly and Loreshyl Cuizon.

Highly rated among Asia and Pacific countries are India, seeded fifth, China 16th, Uzbekistan 30th and Vietnam 38th. In the Bled edition topped again by Russia, China wound up fifth.

The RP chess team's campaign is being supported by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines led by president Go Teng Kok and chair Matias Defensor, Philippine Sports Commission, First Gentleman Foundation, Philippine Convention & Visitors Corporation director Cynthia Carreon, Department of Foreign Affairs and Dickies vice president Dody Arcaya.

"I'm confident that they would be able to put up a good fight," said Go. *Marlon Bernardino*

Shell beats SLR by 6

GAMES TOMORROW (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4 p.m.—San Miguel Beer vs Coca-Cola
6:30 p.m.—Alaska vs FedEx

By June Navarro

THERE was nobody to fear after Sta. Lucia big man Marlou Aquino was benched by an injury, so Shell frolicked in the final quarter.

The Turbochargers attacked the paint and shot confidently from the perimeter to subdue the Realtors, 84-78, last night in the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup at the Philsports Arena.

Tony dela Cruz typified the Turbochargers' aggressiveness as he came up with 24 points while shooting 10 out of 17 from the field.

"We had a lot of shooting drills during practice and I believe it paid off," said Shell coach Leo Austria, who notched his first back-to-back victories since taking over the team last conference.

The Turbochargers improved to 2-1, their best start since the 2001 All-Filipino Cup, while sending the Realtors to their third straight setback in as many outings.

In the second game, Red Bull got its first win of the season by handing Purefoods its first loss, 101-81.

Lordy Tugade came off the bench and scored 25 points while Enrico Villanueva added a career-high 24 for the Barakos, who tied Shell at 1-2. Purefoods dropped to 2-1 in a tie with San Miguel and Coca-Cola, behind frontrunning Talk 'N Text's 3-0 slate.

The 6-foot-9 Aquino was taken out of the game early in the fourth period due to a hurting right sheen, which got aggravated after it was accidentally hit by Billy Mamaril in one of the rebound plays.

With Aquino out, Rich Alvarez and Mamaril buckled down to work and pounded Dennis Espino and Wilmer Ong in the shaded lane.

Alvarez finished with 11 points and 10 rebounds while Mamaril had 10 points, eight rebounds and three assists.

Ronald Tubid, who celebrated his 23rd birthday yesterday, had 13 points.

The scores:

First Game

SHELL 84—Dela Cruz 24, Tubid 13, Alvarez 11, Mamaril 10, Ferreria 7, Calaguio 6, Bajar 4, Cruz 3, Sta. Maria 2, Legaspi 2, Jackson 2

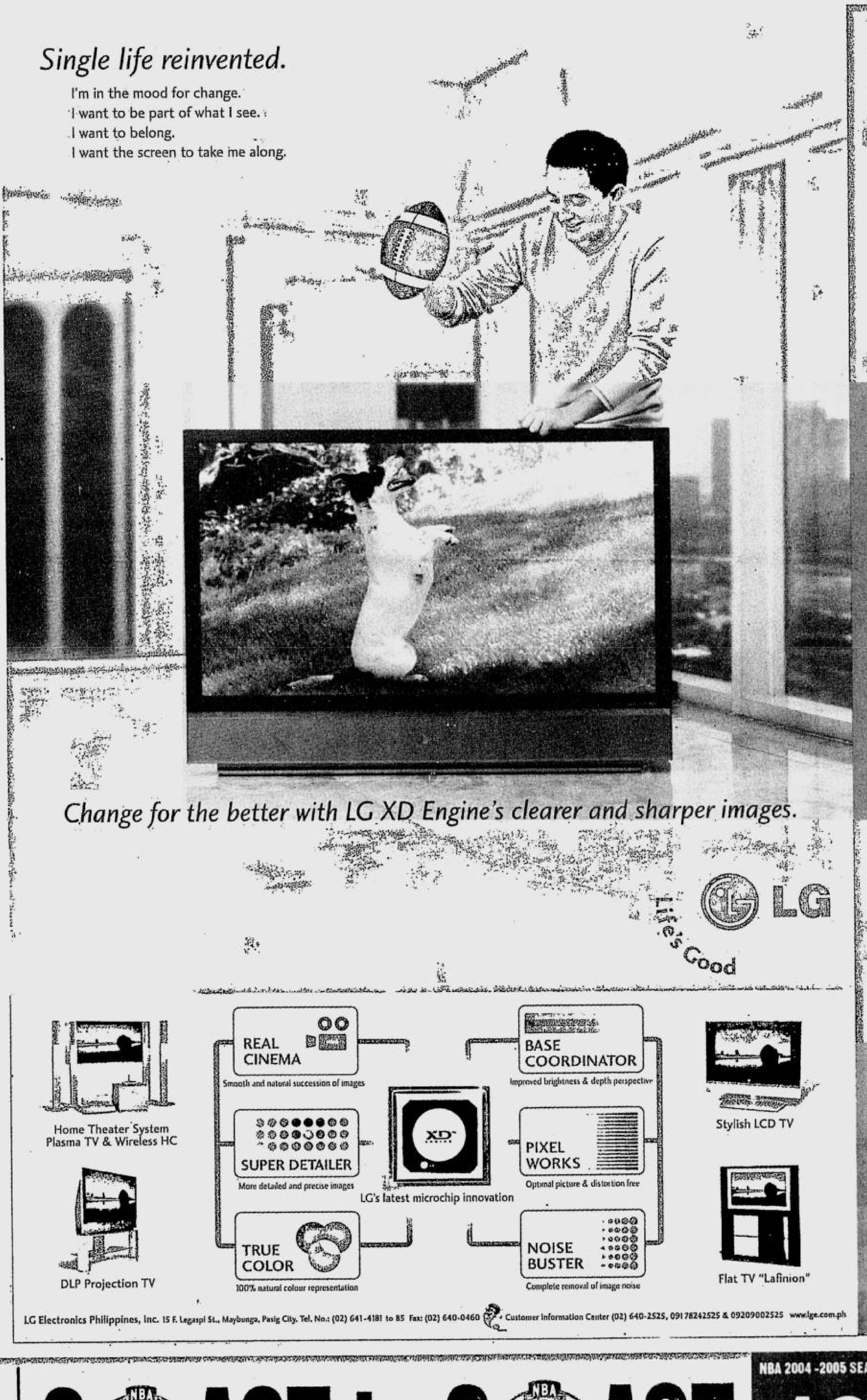
STA. LUCIA 78—Duremdes 18, Espino 18, Mendoza 16, Adriano 7, Aquino 6, Francisco 4, Santos 3, Cuan 2, Omolon 2, Ong 2, Gonzales 0

Quarters: 16-21, 36-38, 61-53, 84-78

RED BULL 101—Tugade 25, Villanueva 24, Harp 11, Baguio 10, Valenzuela 8, Pennisi 8, Meneses 7, Robinson 6, Agapito 2, Lopez 0, Ordonio 0.

PUREFOODS 81—Raymundo 21, Limpot 16, Casiilo 9, Evangelista 8, Hrabak 7, Yee 6, Simon 5, Artadi 4, Realubit 2, Patrimonio 2, Yap 1, Demape 0.

Quarters: 21-17, 45-34, 73-58, 101-81.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A POWERFUL WOMAN IS FLYING TO INQUIRER

Doubles partners collide in semis

TOP-SEED Johnny Arcilla drubbed Chiemel Mantua, 6-2, 6-1, yesterday to earn a seat in the semifinals of the first Enervon Men's Open Singles Tennis Championship at the Makati Sports Club.

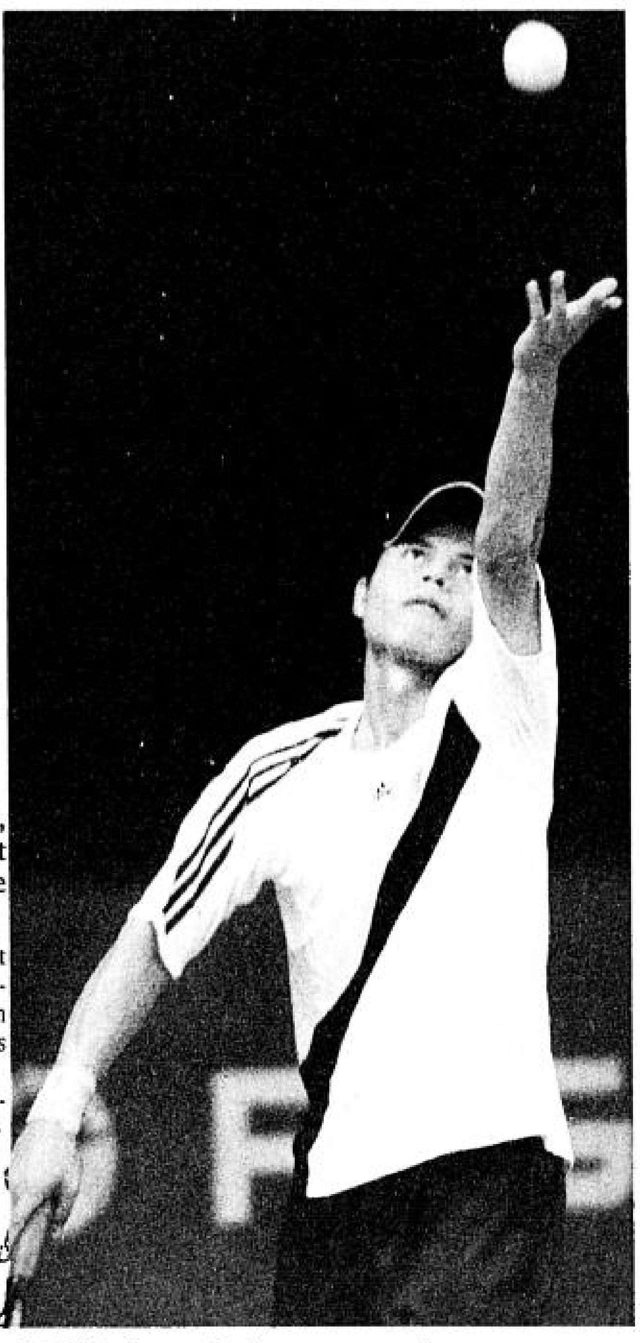
Arcilla's expected victory sent him up against long-time doubles partner and fifth-seed Adelo Abadia, who scored a 6-2, 6-2 win over Yannick Guba.

Arcilla predicted a tough semis outing.

"Abadia knows my game. He's been my doubles partner many times. I will have to find ways to beat him," said the 24-year-old Arcilla, who lost to Abadia in the quarterfinals of the SPEX Open last June.

"But I think that I'm in top shape and hopefully, I can make it to the finals and win this tournament," added Arcilla, who won six of his eight tournaments this year.

In other matches, second-seed Joseph Victorino outclassed No. 8 Jesse Lapore, 6-1, 6-2, while third seed Rolando Ruel Jr. survived seventh seed Elbert Anasta, 6-3, 7-6 (2), to also earn semifinal berths in this event offering P38,000 to the champion and P19,000 to the runner-up.



ARCILLA drops only three games to advance.

Taguig cagers stop Batangas 29ers, gain NBC North final

FORWARD Taguig held off Batangas in the homestretch to win, 89-84, and earn a shot at Spring Cooking Oil-backed Laguna Spring for the NBC (National Basketball Conference) North division title Thursday at the C.P. Tinga Memorial gym.

Taguig posted a 77-64 lead going into the payoff period, but the 29ers rallied to cut the deficit to 81-85, with 30 seconds left.

However, that proved to be the last big stand of the 29ers of Malvar Mayor Tita Reyes, Rep. Oscar Gozos and businessman Bernie Maranan as Taguig's pressure defense forced Batangas to commit turnovers.

Mayor Freddie Tinga's Taguig cagers will meet the Laguna squad of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro at 6 p.m. today at the start of their best-of-three series at the RECS Complex in Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

Laguna, which recently finished third in the tough tournament in Brunei, is favored in the North division finals of the tournament sponsored by Panasonic, Spring Cooking Oil, PCSO, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Cebu Ferries, Air Philippines, Supercat, Skygo Motorcycles, Trans-Asia, Accel and Molten.

"The boys really wanted to win," said Taguig coach Danny Gavieres. "We'll give Laguna a good fight."

The North and South champs wil clash in the national finals. Tribu Sugbu and Ozamiz are currently disputing the South plum.

The scores:

TAGUIG 89—Gumatay 21, vilar 14, Robillos 12, De Guia 11, Ricafuente 9, Roldan 7, Cruz 6, Magsambol 5, Alberto 4, Magsalin 0.

BATANGAS 84—Neo 23, Sta. Cruz 18, Manucat 14, Mallari 11, Valena 7, Finuliar 4, Rodriguez 3, De Castro 2, Cuevas 2, Saygo 0.

Quarters: 23-17, 53-41, 77-64, 89-84

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Walk, just walk

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

A NOTE from Bacolod read: "*Gutom ang bayan, ani* Gloria; gardening *kailangan, sagot ni* Mendoza!"

That was a reaction of a reader to my piece here about gardening and walking on Tuesday (Oct. 12).

Well, I've been doing some gardening for some time already. But just very recently, the "other half" and I had added a dimension to this extremely beautiful hobby: harnessing worms to make the garden grow robustly—and with health benefits to boot.

The worms that help make our backyard garden healthy are of the African variety; they are called the "African Crawlers." A friend of mine gave us a kilo of that a while back as a gift.

"They will be your best friend in making your garden the most beautiful ever in your neighborhood," he said.

A kilo of the "African Crawler" is P800.

For several days now, many of our neighbors have received bundles of leafy mustard that, if we had computed their total costs, would have breached the thousand-buck limit. But then, seeing our organically grown mustard (that means minus the chemicals) go to people both not close and close to us makes us so happy and fulfilled already.

The best part of it is, we derive exercise tending to the garden daily and, at the same, we could eat health foods from it from time to time.

And, yes, before we start our gardening chores—cultivating the soil around the plants, cutting twigs, weeding, etc.—we walk in the neighborhood 30 minutes. That's our way of doing the warm-up—for gardening is, indeed, an exercise.

An exercise without a warm-up could be risky, if not hazardous to health. And, lest you weren't told yet, a 30-minute walk a day reduces a heart stroke, or any heart illness for that matter, by 40 percent.

If you don't believe that, change your doctor.

Ah, the ways of the world.

We live in phases, indeed. Yesterday, you were doing aerobics or something, like the Jane Fonda stuff. Today, you are into badminton, the one sport that even our PBA players indulge in to sustain their agility. Tomorrow?

Well, as the late Beatle George Harrison sang it, "Tomorrow Never Knows."

I got hooked to carpentry once; still love it. The best science ever outside golf.

I'm back to gardening—back because I used to do it when I was a kid growing up in the country. I don't even know until when it will last. Nobody really knows when one's going to end what one has started.

Ah, the ways of the world.

Like George W. Bush. Will he still be president of America after Nov. 2?

Or, FPJ? Will he win his protest and make GMA a paper doll in the end?

Nobody ever thought Pacificador would be acquitted in the Evelio Javier slaying.

Ah, the ways of the world.

Not even Bobby Fischer, acknowledged as the greatest chess player of all time, could absolutely lay claim to the saying that he had been wise to the ways of the world. Otherwise, he wouldn't be languishing in a jail in Japan had he been one: A victim of his own genius.

Gardening, plus walking. To me, they are the simplest retreat a man can ever turn to in these times when there is want and misery stalking the land.

OK, never mind if you don't do gardening. You might not have the plot and that's understandable. The city's too cramped now, really.

But, please, walk. It's the only expense-free exercise available anywhere in the world. You can even do it with only your slippers on. No need for sneakers. Those pricey Nikes, hah, they can kill you with their price tags alone.

You walk, you commune with nature. Blue skies. Sunny day. Faces all around you; ignore the unsmiling, smile back at the smiling.

Walk, or you stagnate and breed "deadly mosquitoes" in your brain. You don't walk, you could die not "seeing the dawn."

While rest is death, movement is life.

The choice is yours.

FASTBREAK: Chad & Jeremy will bring us tonight back to the Sound of the Sixties at the Aliw Theater, because Quinito Henson loves me very much, he assured me of a choice seat this evening. I hope I'll be near Steve O'Neal, the brains of the show?

Martial art finals feature big bouts

DEFENDING champion Caloy Baduria of Elorde Boxing takes on Allan Marcus Co of Deftak in the welterweight championship that banners 13 bouts in the Universal Reality Combat Championship on Oct. 23 at Casino Filipino, Parañaque.

"URCC is the premier mixed martial arts. All the fighters are trained professionally and they're licensed by the Games and Amusement Board. People will get to see some very good fights," said URCC official Del Bacho.

Louie Sanggalang of Deftak will defend his title in the featherweight category against Glenn Evangelista of Strikes and Submissions.

Mark Sangiao of Wushu fights to preserve his crown in the bantamweight division against Lino Tagakay of Red Corner Boxing.

Top fighters Mike Banayad, Rodrigo "The Bull" Asiong, Charlie Angel and Larry Montejo will lead the side shows in the tournament sponsored by San Mig Strong Ice.

Tickets are priced at P1,000, P750 and P450. Contact 892-1712, 840-2455 and 0918-6152848.

Jasmine W. Payo

UST teams triumph

POWERHOUSE University of Santo Tomas led the inaugural winners in the 3rd National Inter-Scholastic Table Tennis Championship on Friday at the UP Kinetic gym.

The UST men's team banked on Michael Dalumpines' victory in the last match to nip University of Assumption-Pampanga, 3-2.

Last year UAAP Most Valuable Player Jamie Yanga led UST's early attack to rout Philippine Women University, 3-0, in the distaff side.

Other men's results saw UP sweep DLSU, 3-0, Letran blank University of Assumption, 3-0, and College of Saint Benilde dump Ateneo De Manila University, 3-0.

NSAs decry POC cold shoulder

But Dayrit says late lobbying for SEAG slots could compromise RP position

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SEVERAL national sports associations yesterday accused Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit of snubbing them during the recent Southeast Asian Games Federation council meeting in Manila.

Shortly after leaving their meeting with equestrian president Jose Cojuangco, the NSAs claimed they had been bypassed in the two-day caucus which finalized the events and sports disciplines to be included in the 2005 SEA Games here.

DAYRIT: Cautious

"Why did they allow us to be there in the first SEAG Federation council meeting last March, only to be disallowed to participate in the final and more important meeting this month?" protested one NSA official who refused to be named.

Dayrit explained he had already announced his decision during the recent general assembly to leave out the NSAs in the Oct. 11-12 meet at the New World Hotel. He said nobody had objected.

Dayrit said he had feared certain NSAs could make last-minute lobbying for their respective sports which "could compromise" the position of the host country. Dayrit is also the SEAG Federation and Philsoc president.

"In other countries, when they hold SEAG federation meetings, local NSAs are not included," Dayrit told the INQUIRER. "I only allowed them to join us last March to give them a chance to take part."

At least 28 NSAs openly supporting Cojuangco met at the residence of the former Tarlac congressman, who is contesting Dayrit for the POC presidency.

Three more NSAs—football, archery, gymnastics—attended the regular caucus for the first time, but they have yet to pledge their allegiance to Cojuangco.

Sources said the three NSAs had spoken during the meeting regarding their thoughts on the coming POC elections, although they didn't readily commit their votes.

Gallego leads 9-ball Open title hopefuls

INTERNATIONALIST Ramil Gallego leads title hopefuls in the knockout phase of the Motolite Philippine 9-Ball Open set Oct. 25-29 at the Casino Filipino Amphitheater.

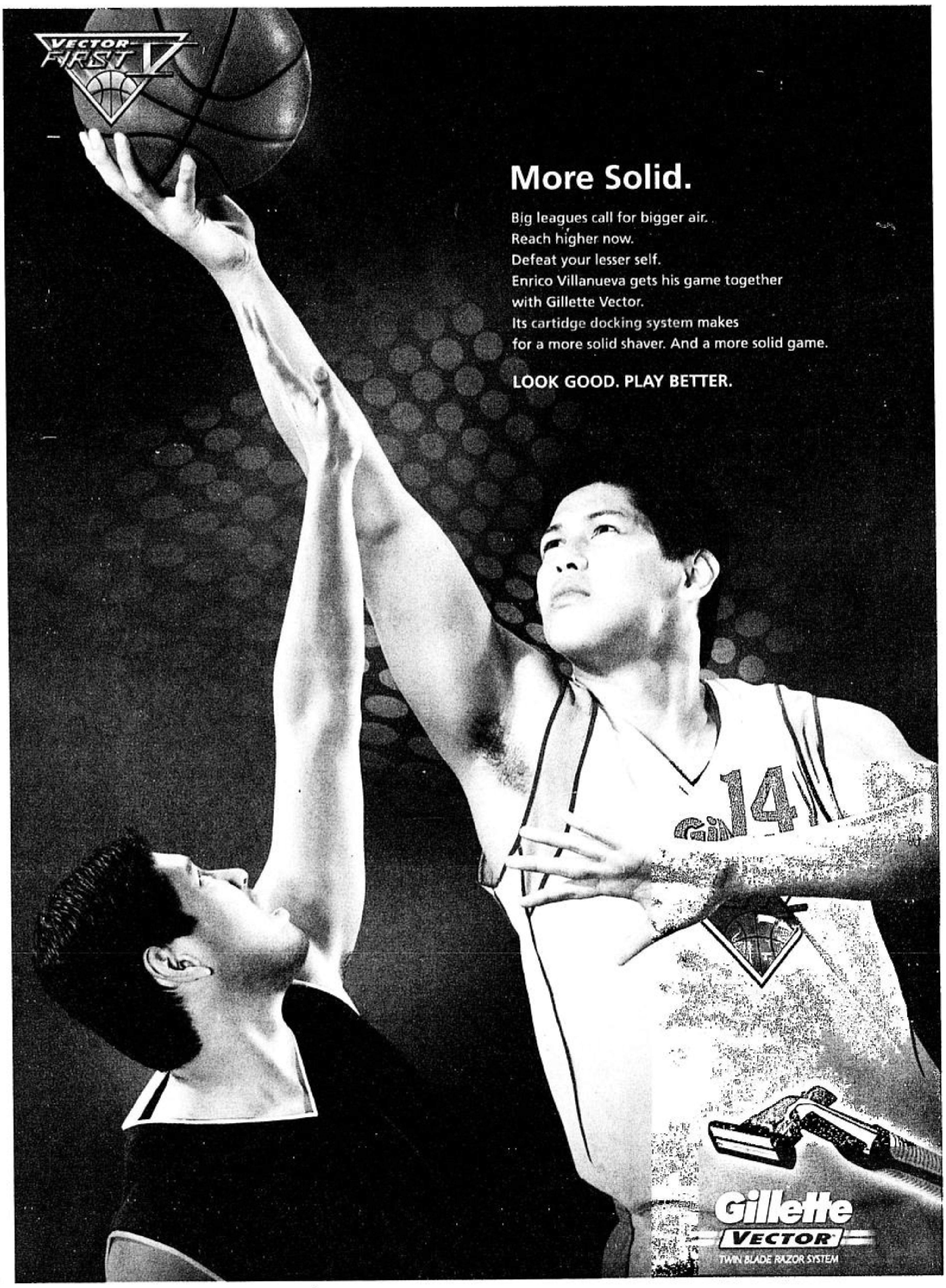
Patterned after the World Pool Championship, the tournament featuring 16 qualifiers will use the winner's break, race-to-9 format in the first three rounds. The quarterfinals and semifinals will be race-to-11 and the finals race-to-17.

Gallego dropped only two racks during the qualifying rounds. His first noted possible opponent is multititled Warren Kiamco.

Other big guns in the field are third-seed Dennis Orcollo, sixth-seed Marlon Manalo, 11th-seed Gandy Valle and 21st-seed Antonio Lining.

At stake in the tournament, organized by Solar Sports, is a total of P1.16 million with the winner pocketing P500,000.

First-round winners will be guaranteed at least P5,000. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*



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NISSAN

England coach tells Beckham to shut mouth

BECKHAM AP

LONDON—Keep your mouth shut.

That's England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson's advice for his embattled captain, David Beckham.

The English Football Association is considering possible sanctions against Beckham, who admitted he deliberately fouled a Welsh opponent to get a yellow card and automatic suspension from the next game.

Eriksson said he didn't have a problem with Beckham's action on the field, but admonished him for telling the media that he did it on purpose.

"David should think next time that talking is silver, silence is golden," the Swede said.

Eriksson defended his captain from the backlash that began after Beckham told a London newspaper paper about his yellow card ploy.

"Something happened and suddenly it was like the Third World War had gone off," Eriksson said. "It is always like that if we are a big football country. And Beckham is probably the most famous footballer in the world ever."

Beckham broke a rib during Saturday's 2-0 World Cup qualifying victory over Wales and realized the injury would keep him out of Wednesday's qualifier in Azerbaijan. Carrying a yellow card from a previous game, he deliberately fouled Ben Thatcher so he could serve the automatic ban while injured.

The move was intended to allow him to start with a clean slate for the next World Cup qualifying games.

Fifa president Sepp Blatter and others criticized Beckham for violating the spirit of fair play. Blatter urged the FA to take action.

Beckham issued a formal apology Wednesday, and Eriksson indicated he would remain England captain.

But the FA is expected to decide whether to punish Beckham for bringing the game into disrepute. He could face a suspension or fine.

"We will have to reflect on David's strong apology and Sven's conversations with him," FA spokesman Adrian Bevington said.

Players can receive suspensions under an FA rule which states that a "participant shall at all times act in the best interests of the game and...not in any manner which is improper or brings the game into disrepute." *AP*

Pujols, Rolen propel Cardinals past Astros

NEW YORK—Albert Pujols and Scott Rolen hit back-to-back home runs in the eighth inning to lead the St. Louis Cardinals to a 6-4 win over the Houston Astros in Game 2 of the NL Championship Series at Busch Stadium on Thursday.

Rolen hit two of the Cardinals four home runs in the game as the Central Division champions rallied from a three-run deficit to take a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven series.

The teams now travel to Houston for three games from Saturday, with pitching aces Roy Oswalt and Roger Clemens scheduled to start for the wild card Astros in the next two contests.

"We're going into a tough place to play a very good team.

Nobody's celebrating as we have a lot ahead of us," Cardinals manager Tony LaRussa said after the game.

The game was delayed more than a half hour due to rain, which continued throughout most of the night.

The Astros jumped in front in the first inning on a solo home run by Carlos Beltran and led 2-0 on another solo homer by Morgan Ensberg in the fourth.

Lance Berkman's RBI single in the top of the fifth made it 3-0 to Houston but the Cardinals rallied to score four runs in the bottom of the inning on a pair of two-run homers from Rolen and Larry Walker.

Houston would not be denied, however, as Ensberg tied the game with a run-scoring single in the seventh.

That set the stage for Pujols and Rolen to blast consecutive homers off reliever Dan Miceli in the eighth.

After the big hits, Miceli retired the side and was charged with the loss.

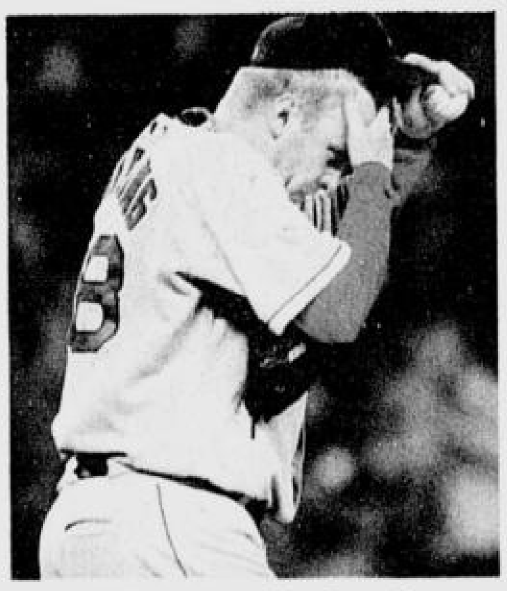
Julian Tavarez got the win for the Cardinals, pitching a perfect eighth inning, and Jason Isringhausen did likewise in the ninth to pick up the save.

Rolen wound up with two hits and three RBI for St. Louis, while Pujols had three hits, scored two runs and drove in one more with his homer.

"I don't know what my post-season numbers are but tonight I contributed to help us win a ballgame," Rolen said.

Ensberg had two hits and two RBI for Houston, while Berkman and Jose Vizcaino each had two hits for the Astros, who tried to remain upbeat despite the loss.

"When we go home we feel really good and confident with how we play," Ensberg said. "I don't think we feel down or intimidated at all." *Reuters*



CURT Schilling's injury adds to Boston's woes. AP

Schilling scratched

NEW YORK—The Boston Red Sox's chances of advancing past the New York Yankees into baseball's World Series suffered a blow on Thursday with pitcher Curt Schilling being scratched from his Game 5 start due to an injured ankle.

The Yankees lead the best-of-seven American League championship series, 2-0, with the next three games moving to Boston. Schilling was scheduled to start Sunday's fifth game, if the series goes that far.

The 37-year-old righthander, who led the majors this season with 21 wins, aggravated an ankle injury during Game One on Tuesday and will require surgery as soon as the season ends. He lasted three innings and gave up six runs in the 10-7 loss.

"He's just a little too sore," Red Sox manager Terry Francona said. "They'll continue to work on Schil with the medical staff, the training staff, but as far as Sunday goes, he's not our starter."

Bronson Arroyo is scheduled to start Game Three for the Red Sox with Tim Wakefield starting Game Four.

If there is a Game Five, 14-game winner Derek Lowe is expected to start, though Francona might consider using three-time Cy Young winner Pedro Martinez on three days rest.

"Weather could dictate some changes," said Francona. "But if everything stays like it's supposed to, and we still need to get to Game Five, but yeah, it's Derek." *Reuters*

ALBE

YAO Ming feels like a rookie in the first-ever NBA game played in China. AFP

Nervous Yao still helps Rockets subdue Kings

SHANGHAI, China—Yao Ming said coming back home to China with the NBA wasn't entirely a relaxing experience.

"I didn't play a great game. I was really nervous in the first half. It was almost like the feeling I had playing in my first NBA game," said Yao, who scored 14 points to lead the Houston Rockets to an 88-86 win over the Sacramento Kings Thursday night in the first ever NBA game played in China.

The teams move next to Beijing for a second exhibition game on Sunday.

Sacramento's Brad Miller was the game's top scorer with 19 points, but there was never any question who the star attraction was: The capacity crowd chanted Yao's name repeatedly—even when he wasn't on the court.

With all that attention, Yao started off hesitant and nervous, missing his first two shots and allowing Miller to score over him repeatedly. He settled in gradually to lead the Rockets in scoring, playing 27 minutes and grabbing seven rebounds.

"I felt suffocated and I just wanted to find an exit, but I just tried to focus on technical details and then things settled down," he said.

Yao said another factor may have been a heavy schedule ranging from television appearances to a visit to his old primary school to promote reading.

"Those outside activities were very important to me, and to the kids and others, but it did make it a little harder for me," Yao said. "I felt much better today when I could get back on familiar territory on the basketball court."

Yao got on the board in the seventh minute with a decisive dunk, then added two more points shortly after on a short pass from Tracy McGrady.

He was replaced by Dikembe Mutombo with three minutes left in the quarter as Houston fell behind 21-10. Yao returned in the second quarter and quickly racked up eight more points, six of them on free throws and two on an alley-oop from McGrady that drew big cheers from the capacity crowd at Shanghai's city gymnasium.

It was the second pairing between Yao and McGrady following the two-time league scoring champ's move from the Orlando Magic in a seven-player deal this summer. Houston coach Jeff Van Gundy said he thought both players could do better.

"I don't think either one played as well as they could have tonight. But I think they'll have very good seasons, both individually and together," Van Gundy said.

Sacramento's Chinese hopeful Liu Wei came in a minute and a half into the second quarter and got on the board three minutes later with a jump shot.

Yao had said he wouldn't cut Liu any slack and fouled his fellow Chinese Olympic team member with two minutes left in the half. On the ground, Liu looked up at Yao for a helping hand, but Yao remained where he was, hands on his hips. *AP*

Goosen fashions vic

VIRGINIA WATER, England—US Open champion Retief Goosen was a big winner on a rain-marred first day of the World Match Play Championship at Wentworth on Thursday, crushing Jeff Maggert by a record 12 and 11.

Goosen's margin of victory exceeded the old record in the 36-hole matches of 11 and 10 when Mark O'Meara beat Vijay Singh in the second round in 1998.

Because of a 2 1/2-hour rain delay at the start of the day, several matches were suspended by darkness with the players still on the course.

South African Ernie Els recovered from a morning deficit to beat Scotland's Scott Drummond, 2 and 1.

World No. 1 Singh lost to German Bernhard Langer at the first extra hole when the match restarted after the rain delay.

Singh, winner of eight tournaments this season, recovered from three down with four holes remaining to send the match into sudden death but he bogeyed the first hole to send Europe's Ryder Cup captain through to a second-round match against Spain's Miguel Angel Jimenez.

"Scott certainly made a contest of it," Els told reporters.

"I wasn't as sharp as I could be in the first 18 holes and I knew I had to get off to a better start in the second round. He showed a lot of character and I'm just happy to get through." Lee Westwood beat British Open champion Todd Hamilton 4 and 3 and will play Goosen.

Westwood and Jimenez, a 3 and 2

Record 62 gives Park

PARK: Golf's 'desert girl' AP

PALM DESERT, California—Although the Southern California desert is a long way—and drastically different—from her native South Korea, Grace Park feels at home among the sand and the cacti.

Park won her first major title earlier this year at nearby Rancho Mirage, and she opened the Samsung World Championship with a sizzling 10-under 62 on Thursday.

"I'm a desert kind of girl, I guess," Park said after finishing the first round with a two-shot lead on Catriona Matthew.

"I've been playing in Palm Springs since I was 13 years old, in juniors. Everybody was so friendly to me when I got here this week, remembering my win in the Kraft Nabisco," added Park, a former star at Arizona State University.

Jamison spoils Charlotte's NBA return

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina—Antawn Jamison scored in the final 6.8 seconds of second overtime Thursday to lead the Washington Wizards over the expansion Bobcats, 126-125, spoiling Charlotte's return to the NBA.

Jarvis Hayes scored 31 points and Jamison had 20 for the Wizards, who dropped their first two preseason games. Anthony Peeler scored 19.

Gerald Wallace had 26 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Bobcats, the league's 30th franchise. Primoz Brezec had 26 points and 11 rebounds, while rookie Emeka Okafor—the No. 2 pick in this year's draft—had 18 points.

Jason Hart, who had 19 points, hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer for Charlotte to send the game to a second overtime. Hart missed a potential game-winning jumper after Jamison's go-ahead basket.

The game was played less than two years after the Hornets left for New Orleans, ending a 14-year run in Charlotte. That stint ended acrimoniously, but 9,948 fans attended the Bobcats' preseason opener.

Knicks 92, Nets 84

In Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, Jamal Crawford had 19 points, and New York scored the first 21 of the fourth quarter to defeat New Jersey.

Making his Knicks debut after being acquired from the Chicago Bulls in an offseason trade, Crawford hit two 3-pointers in the game's opening moments and another in the fourth quarter as New York turned a 74-63 deficit after three periods into a 85-74 lead with 3:11 left.

Vin Baker and Michael Sweetney keyed the run for the Knicks. Baker scored seven points, including a layup with 7:30 left that gave the Knicks a 76-74 lead. Sweetney made five of six free throws and found an open Baker to assist on the go-ahead basket.

Grizzlies 102, Cavaliers 94

In Memphis, Tennessee, Lorenzen Wright and Dahntay Jones had 15 points each to lead Memphis to a victory over Cleveland.

LeBron James had 25 points and Drew Gooden added 13 more and 12 rebounds for Cleveland.

The Grizzlies held a 49-42 advantage at the half, but Cleveland came back to take the lead at 60-59 on a fast-break dunk by James with 5:48 left in the third period. James stole the ball under the Memphis basket and sprinted down the floor alone for the stuff.

Timberwolves 99, Hawks 96

In Birmingham, Alabama, Kevin Garnett scored 26 points to lead Minnesota over Atlanta.

Latrell Sprewell scored 10 points for Minnesota, but was sidelined for the second half with a tender ankle.

Antoine Walker had 22 points and Jon Barry added 16 for the Hawks, who trailed by as many as 14 points in the third quarter before cutting the deficit to one late in the fourth quarter.

Nuggets 97, Bucks 91

In Colorado Springs, Colorado, Carmelo Anthony had 19 points before sitting out most of the second half, and Earl Boykins added 18 points and six assists to help Denver win its preseason opener over Milwaukee.

Keith Van Horn and Michael Redd had 17 points each, and Desmond Mason added 16 for Milwaukee.

Warriors 90, Trail Blazers 71

In Oakland, California, Troy Murphy, finally healthy after an injury-plagued season, had 17 points and 11 rebounds to lead Golden State past Portland in a preview of the teams' season opener.

The Warriors never trailed against the sluggish Blazers, who beat Seattle by 19 points Wednesday night in their first preseason game but made too many mistakes to ever be in this one. *AP*

Tiger barred from docking

SAN JUAN—Golf superstar Tiger Woods and his bride, Elin Nordegren, honeymooning aboard the yacht, Privacy, were barred from the port of San Juan Thursday because they hadn't met the anti-terror security requirements, the US Coast Guard confirmed.

Woods and Nordegren were married on Oct. 5 in Barbados and had decided to make San Juan a stop on their Caribbean cruise in order to refuel.

But US Coast Guard spokesman Eric Willis told Puerto Rican media that the boat hadn't notified authorities of their intended arrival four days in advance, as required by security regulations governing the United States and its territories. *AFP*

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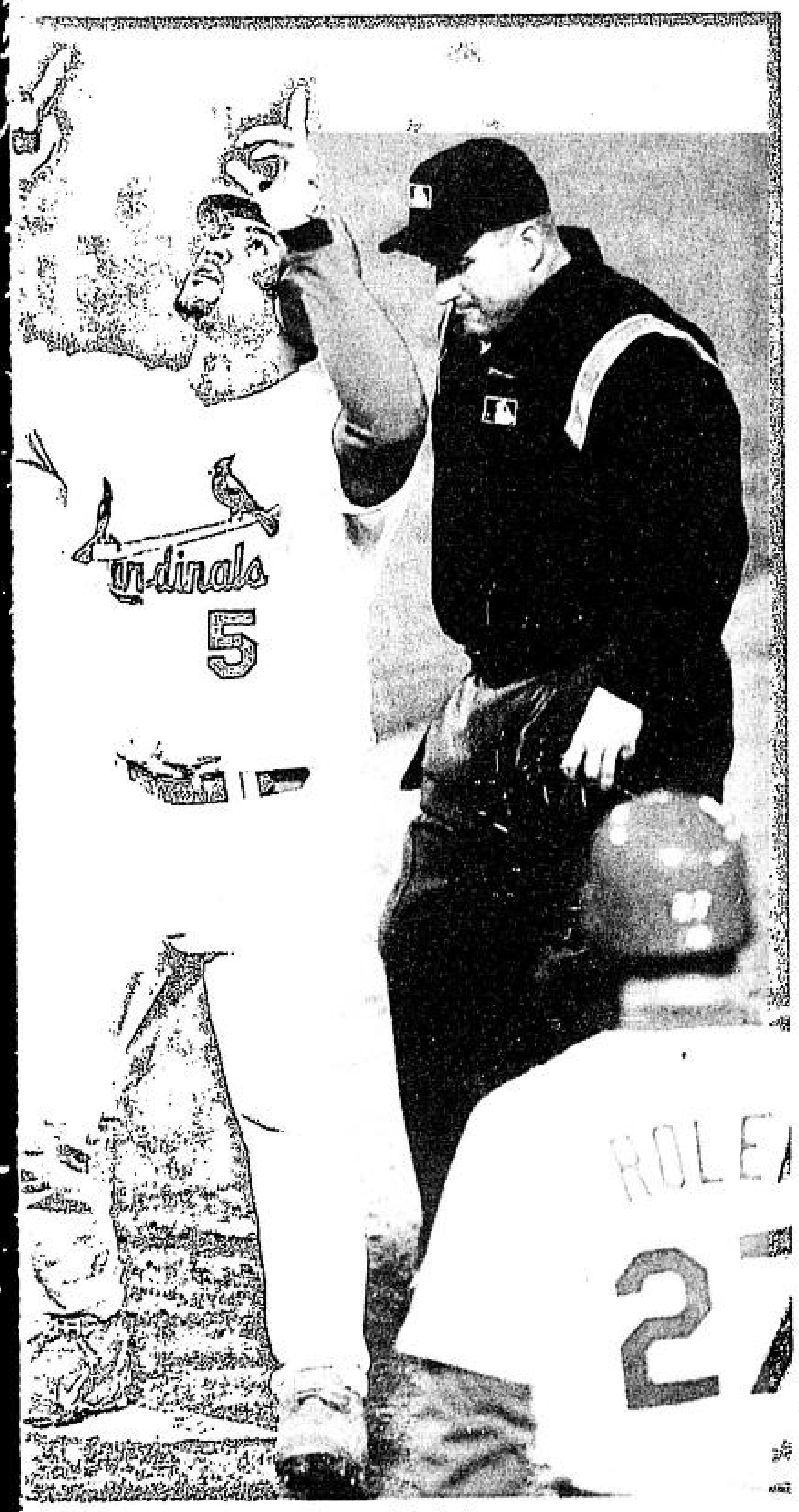


RT Pujols (LEFT) celebrates his crucial solo home run. AFP

Davenport takes No. 1 spot

DAVENPORT REUTERS

MOSCOW—Lindsay Davenport will take over the world number one spot from Amelie Mauresmo when the rankings are released next week after brushing aside Dinara Safina 6-4, 6-2, on Thursday to reach the Kremlin Cup quarterfinals.

The 18-year-old Russian, the younger sister of 2000 US Open champion Marat Safin, put up brave resistance in the first set, but the second seed still managed to run out a comfortable victory after 86 minutes.

The 28-year-old American, who trailed Mauresmo by 15 points at the start of the week, only needed to win her opening match in Moscow to take the top spot after the Frenchwoman withdrew from the $2.3 million tournament with a thigh injury.

Davenport first made it to world No. 1 six years ago.

Fifth seed Elena Dementieva also eased through to the last eight with a 6-3 6-3 win over Croatian qualifier Sandra Mamic to earn an eagerly awaited rematch with fellow Russian Svetlana Kuznetsova, whom she lost to in the US Open final. *Reuters*

Bovina hammers Venus in Moscow

MOSCOW—Unseeded Elena Bovina upset error-prone Venus Williams, 6-3, 6-2, Friday to advance to the Kremlin Cup semifinals.

Bovina, 19, will be playing in her third semifinal this season.

She won the Pilot Pen tournament in New Haven in August—her first title in two years and her third career championship—and lost to fellow Russian Elena Dementieva in the finals of Gaz de France Stars three weeks ago.

Bovina opened strongly, breaking Williams with a precise backhand cross at 40-15 in the first game of the opening set.

"I wouldn't say it was easy. I opened well and my task was not to allow her to get into her game. I did it," said Bovina.

Williams saved two break points in the fifth game and another one on her next serve before, 40-love down in the ninth game, she sent a backhand wide to lose the set.

Williams broke Bovina in the first game of the second set, but the Russian capitalized on a string of Williams' unforced errors to make it 2-2 in the fourth game, when the American double-faulted on a deuce.

The Russian then won four consecutive game to close the match in 61 minutes.

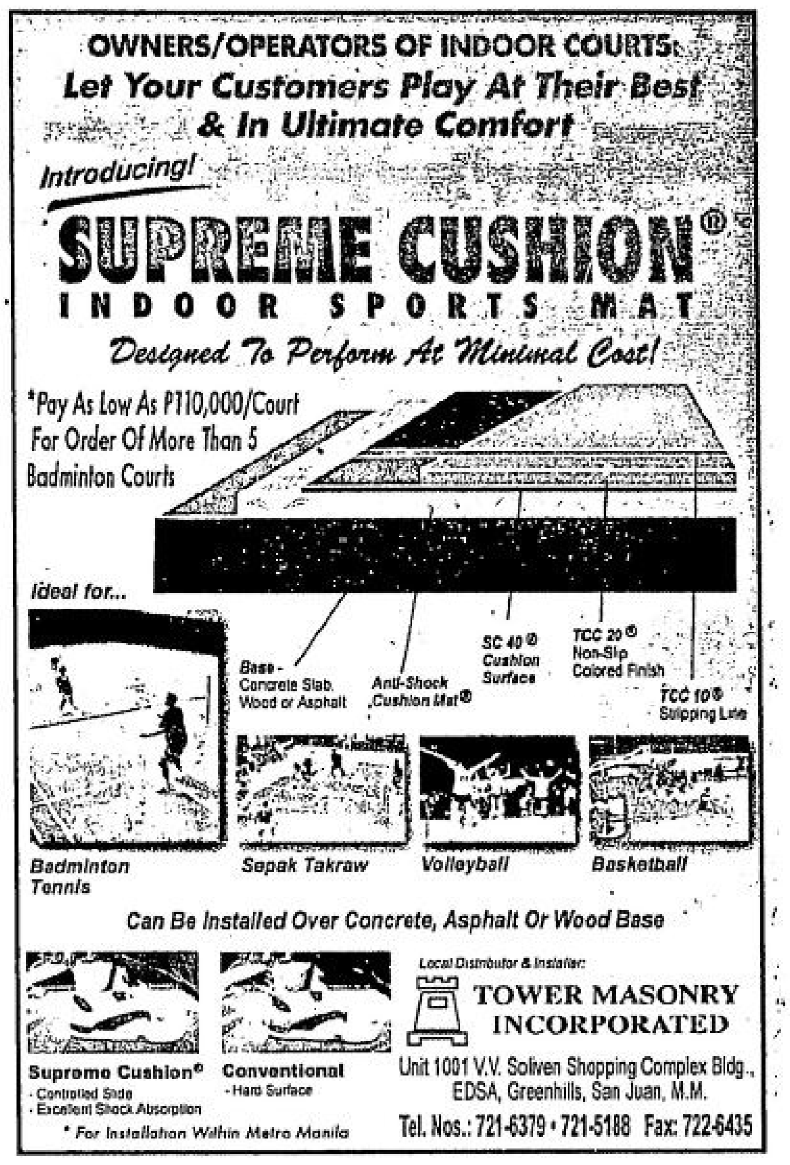
No. 7 Williams, playing in her first tournament since losing to fellow American Lindsay Davenport in the fourth round of the US Open, made 10 double faults and committed 29 unforced errors Friday.

"My serve wasn't there the way I wanted it to be today," said Williams.

"No loss is a lot of fun," said the disappointed Williams, who was playing at the Kremlin Cup for the fourth time. Her best result here was a semifinal in 1998.

Second-seeded Lindsay Davenport faced Francesca Schiavone of Italy later Friday, while third-seeded Russian Anastasia Myskina played sixth-seeded compatriot Vera Zvonareva.

The men's play featured second-seeded Swede Joachim Johansson against Greg Rudedski of Britain. *AP*



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tory for the books

winner over American Steve Flesch, were joined in the last eight by fellow European Ryder Cup team members Padraig Harrington and Thomas Levet, who will meet for a place in the semifinals.

Ireland's Harrington beat Chris Riley, 2 and 1.

Goosen, seeking a sixth title at the World Match Play, birdied two of the first four holes and three of the last four in shooting a 7-under 65 while Maggert bogeyed six on the front nine.

"I birdied the second to go one up and played really solid from there. But Jeff didn't play his best as I know he can," Goosen said.

Without losing a hole, Goosen was 10 up after 18 and claimed his 12th birdie of the day on the 25th hole to win the match.

"I've been struggling with my putting the last few weeks but I read the greens quite well and putted really well for a change," he said.

Maggert declined to comment during lunch after the first 18 and left the club quickly after his defeat.

Els hooked his drive and lost the first hole of the day to Drummond, who shot 64 to beat Els and win the British PGA on the same West Course in May.

Els trailed all morning but reduced the deficit to one hole with a birdie at the 18th. Then he won the 20th and 21st in the afternoon with birdie putts of 6 and 10 feet to move in front.

He chipped in for eagle at the 22nd hole, the 457-yard (454-meter), par-4 No. 4. *AP*

two-shot LPGA lead

She responded with probably the best round of her career to open the 72-hole tournament.

"I'm extremely thrilled. It's my first time shooting 10 under, so I'm happy. Today was just an unbelievable day," said Park, who had a 61 earlier this year on a par-70 course in the tournament at Tucson, Ariz.

Park capped her day at Bighorn Golf Club by rolling in tricky 25-footer for birdie on the final hole.

"I had a horrible second shot (to the fringe on 18) and I was thinking I would two-putt. I would have been happy to finish 9 under," Park said. "But I got a big bonus there."

On a sunny and still day, the ideal conditions and relatively easy pin placements made for low first-round scores. Park's 62 was the best in the tournament's 24-year history.

The event is being played for the first time at Bighorn Golf Club, the 13th course used for the tournament.

Park had one bogey, an eagle and nine birdies.

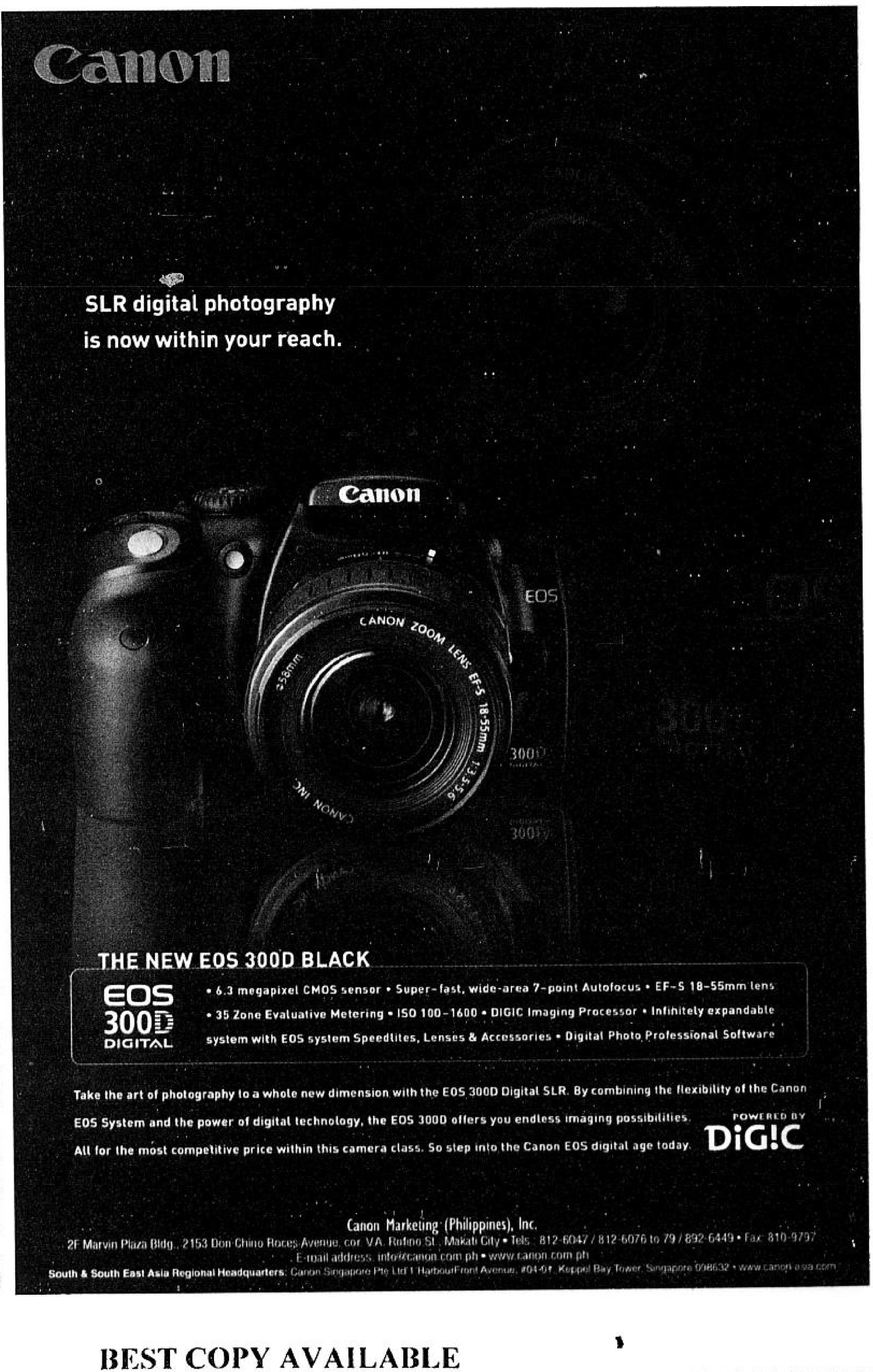
Four shots off the lead at 66 were three-time champion Annika Sorenstam, defending champion Sophie Gustafson, Lorena Ochoa and Cristie Kerr.

Sixteen of the 20 players in the elite field broke par.

Amateur Michelle Wie, who turned 15 on Monday, played with Sorenstam and shot a 74, tying her for 18th with Se Ri Pak. Only Laura Davies' 76 was higher.

Wie was 1 under until she hit into thick desert shrubs alongside the fairway and finished with a triple-bogey 8 on the 12th hole. *AP*

YOUNG MASTERS Two little children carefully maneuver chess pieces as they take time out to play in a giant chess set in Santa Ponsa Beach in the Spanish island of Mallorca. The set was put up as an attraction in preparation for The Ceremony of Inauguration of the 36th Chess Olympiad. The Olympic Games will take place from Oct. 15 to 30. AFP



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PLATINUM CUP SOUTH ELIMS

Alabang, Palms head cast

SKIPPERS from 12 teams in the East sector make the ceremonial serve with INQUIRER president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez (sixth from left) at the West Drive courts in Pasig City recently. RYAN LIM

THE ALABANG Country Club and The Palms Country Club lead the chase for two more slots to the finals when the South area eliminations of the Battle of the Courts: National Inter-Club Platinum Badminton Cup is held starting today at the Olivarez College Sports Complex in Sucat, Parañaque.

Alabang and The Palms are among the 13 major clubs vying for the area title in the country's first-ever tournament for courts presented by Globe Platinum and INQUIRER BADMINTON.

Also contending for the crown in the weekend showdown cosponsored by Philippine Airlines, Mizuno and L Timestudio are Alabang Racquet Club, South Central, Powerzone, Leap N Smash, Camp Badminton FTI, Flick, Anvil, Badders, Speed, Intramuros and Olivarez.

Gosen is the official shuttlecock, Nestlé the official drink provider and Gerflor Taraflex the official mat sponsor.

Hostilities kick off at 9 a.m. after a brief opening ceremony expected to be graced by sports patron Dr. Pablo Olivarez, owner of the 25-court facility which is now the country's biggest.

Already in the national finals slated on Nov. 20-21 at the Market! Market! at the Bonifacio Global City are Valle Verde of Pasig and Player's Best of Marikina. They bagged the two slots disputed in the East eliminations held last week at the West Drive Badminton Club.

Participants will compete in the men's, ladies' and mixed doubles. The top two teams in each group will advance to the crossover semifinals.

The national champions will win 20,000 Mabuhay Miles from PAL and a holiday in Bangkok.

Top off-roaders tackling Isawa 4x4 Challenge

THE COUNTRY'S top off-roaders will test their skills in the Mamoru Isawa 4x4 Challenge this Sunday starting at 9 a.m. in Barangay Macamot in Binangonan, Rizal.

Four-by-four specialists from the Land Cruiser Club of the Philippines, Nueva Ecija and Pampanga, Antipolo 4-Wheelers, Bicol Off-Roaders, Balayan-Nasugbu 4x4 Club, Team X, Taytay 4-Wheelers, Del Monte 4-Wheelers, Hala-Hala Off-Roaders, Baguio-Benguet Off-Roaders and the Science City Off-Roaders will vie for honors in the 4- and 6-cylinder classes.

Sanctioned by the Luzon 4x4 Federation, the challenge is sponsored by Petron Rev-X, Bilstein, Thule, R2 AutoCentrum, Silverwind, Ambi Pur, Armark and 105.1 Crossover.

Competitors in their 200-hp machines will race against the clock around a man-made course fraught with technically demanding obstacles.

Among the entries are Gilbert Maningas, Larry Mandiola, Noel Bartolome Sr., Noel Bartolome Jr., Homer Dungca and Dante Dungca, Japanese driver Masanori Hikiba and paraplegic sensation Arthur Azcuna, Jomark de los Santos, Angelo Prieto, Nestor Policarpio, Abel de las Alas, Joel Miranda, Richard Emano, Tom Gempensaw and Ramon Uy.

Sy tries to reverse Formula BMW fortunes in S. Korea

SY: Fresh start

HIS BITTERSWEET experience in the Shanghai leg of the Formula BMW Asia Series 2004 behind him, young Filipino driver Tyson Sy guns for redemption when he competes in the final leg of the series this Sunday at the challenging Taebak Circuit in South Korea.

The 17-year-old Sy won the race in Shanghai but lost it at the end after being meted a one-minute penalty for rolling too early at the start.

Sy, who is sponsored by San Miguel Corp., Bosch, Demvels Motorsports, Tiger Steel, A-Toy Body Kits and H&R Springs, stands fifth in the standings.

"I don't think about (Shanghai) anymore," said the young ace who drives for Minardi Team Asia-junior team of the European Minardi Formula One organization.

"As they say, each race is a new story and I'm treating this one like any other. Although the championship has been decided, I'm still going to give it my best and take the fight to the front."

La Salle XI tops Iligan RRFF

LA SALLE Academy nipped Samburon Elementary School in a thriller, 5-4, recently to lift the champion's trophy in the Iligan City leg of the Red Ribbon Football Fiesta.

The tournament, backed by Red Ribbon Bakeshop and held in the same week as the feast of the Senior San Miguel, is the official Under-14 tournament of the Philippine Football Federation and organized in the province by the Iligan Football Association (IFA).

Like the Butuan and Bukidnon tournaments, the IFA also awarded one-year scholarships to excellent young players courtesy of Rudy Marzo, chair of the Street Children Committee.

Recipients were Best Striker Mark Elbert dela Torre and Best Goalkeeper Marriel Ceballos, both from Samburon Elementary. La Salle's Stephen Burda was the month-long event's Most Valuable Player.

Special guests for the finals were Councilor and city sports czar Vharf Belmonte and Iligan sports coordinator Freddie Siao.

SPORTSWATCH

Yakult 10-Miler listing starts Monday

REGISTRATION for the Yakult 10-Miler slated Nov. 7 at the Cultural Center Complex grounds in Pasay City starts on Monday, Oct. 18, at the ground floor of the Vasquez Madrigal Plaza Building at 51 Annapolis Street in Greenhills, San Juan. The Yakult 10-Miler run as well as the 5-K and 3-K Kids side events are open to all. About 2,000 runners, including the cream of the country's runners, are vying in the race. Registration fee is P100. Last day of registration is on Nov. 3. Late entry fee is P200. The race will start from Vicente Sotto Street at the Cultural Center Complex grounds. A total of P30,000 in cash prizes plus trophies and Yakult gift packs await the top overall winners and the first five female finishers of the 10-Mile event while top finishers of the 5-K and 3-K Kids run will receive medals and Yakult gift packs.

Impressive Gorres fights in California

TOP-RANKED Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation superfly contender Z "The Dream" Gorres continues to impress trainers and scouts in California where he has been slated for his US debut in San Diego on Oct. 29. This was revealed by Cebu boxing patron Tony Aldeguer, who charts Gorres' career along with Manila lawyer-sportsman Rudy Salud. "Opponent is still unknown," Aldeguer pointed out, noting that organizers were still looking for a foe who could dish it out with the southpaw Gorres, who reportedly made good account of himself and outclassed Hawaii-based NABF flyweight champ Brian Viloria at the Wild Card Gym of renowned trainer Freddie Roach. Roach, who also trains pound-for-pound greats James Tony and Manny Pacquiao, was reportedly impressed by Gorres' sound fundamentals, although he made a few technical corrections. Gorres goes into his US debut parading an 18-1-1 card, with 11 KO's. Aldeguer said Gorres is also slated to see action in a December card in Manila possibly featuring Manny Pacquiao against Australian-based Gairy St. Clair.

Salven L. Lagumbay

Biking's Club 200 celebrates 10th year

A TRACK Day at the Batangas Racing Circuit, a medical mission in Tagaytay City and a Bike Display and other festivities in Eastwood City, Libis, will be part of today's Club 200 10th anniversary celebration. Club 200, one of the country's premier bike clubs, is celebrating its 10th year at different venues. "This is our way of sharing to the community our countless blessings for the past year," said Club 200 president Rene Tayag. "As responsible citizens and bikers, we feel that we have a duty to the community." Club 200 started the celebration by organizing a medical mission in Tagaytay City last Oct. 2, with doctors from the Tau Mu Sigma Phi fraternity of the UST Medical School in attendance. Club 200 also donated P50,000 worth of medicines to the people. Last Saturday, Club 200 organized a free Track Day at the BRC in Rosario, Batangas, participated in by some 230 bikers and held in cooperation with the National Racing Association and its head, Jack Swann. The bike clinic was supervised by Superbikes champion Rey Relativo, 2002 Novice Superbike titlist Nikki Romero and head marshal and expert racer Miguel Bichara.

80 fights today at Roligon

EIGHTY matches await derby fans today when the seventh stage of the Cash Premyo derby series unfolds at the Roligon Mega Cockpit. The competition, backed by Thunderbird Platinum and Thunderbird Baby Stag Booster, features some of the country's best cockers and breeders including World Slasher champions Rey Briones and William Go, perennial winner Boy Marzo, engineer Armand Garcia, Pol Estrellado and Boy Royo, lawyer Rudy Salud, Vice Mayor Nestor Mercado, Allan Siaco, Allan Tan, James Uy, Dong Lacson and Dicky Lim. Hosting the event is the triumvirate of Abraham Bernales, Mody Almendras and Tiling Capitan.

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THE 2004 MILO YOUTH SUMMER TENNIS PROGRAM
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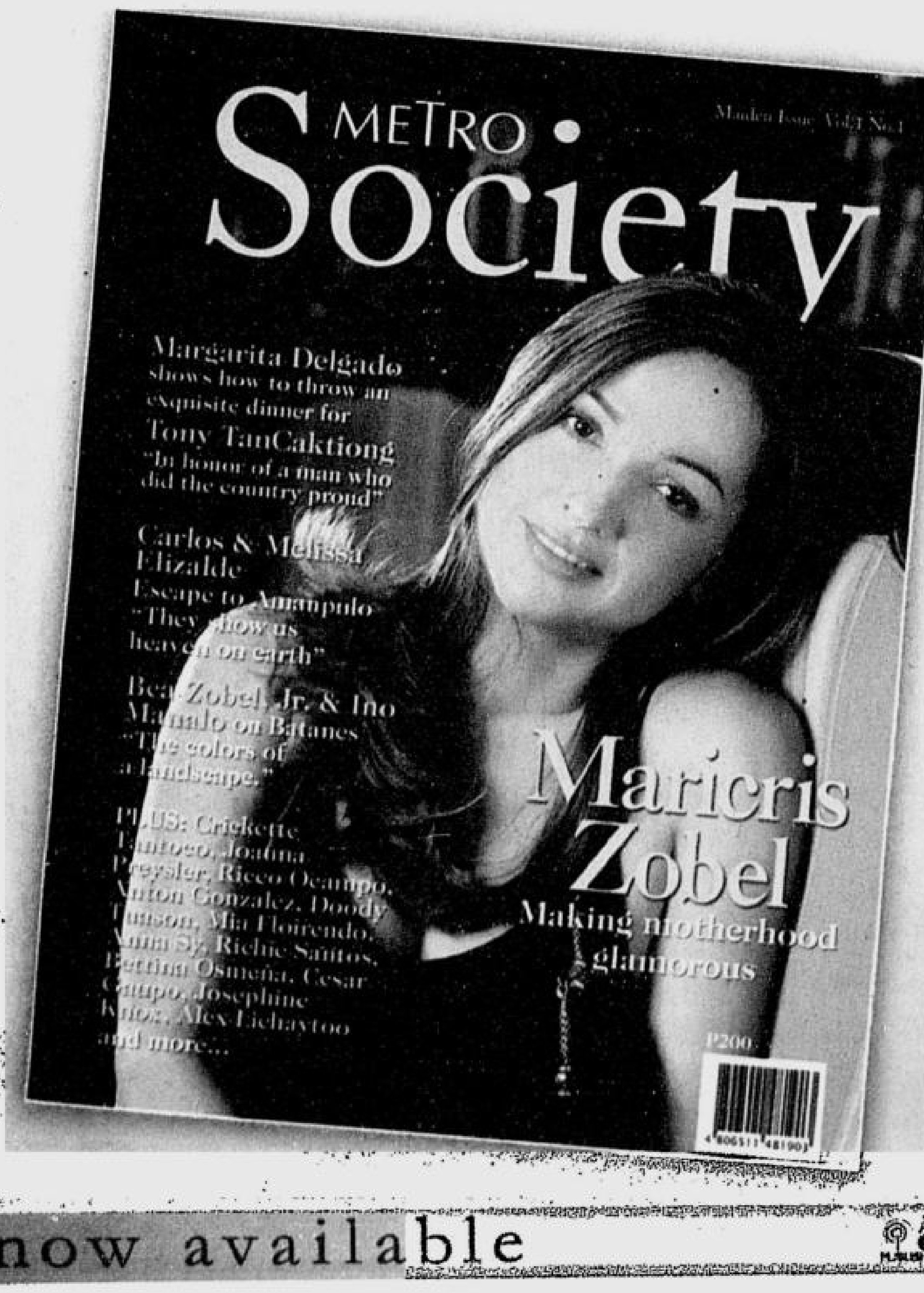
QUALIFIERS: Winners of the recent Southern Luzon eliminations of the Milo age-group tennis championships with tournament officials. They earned the right to represent the region in the National Finals which has put at stake five round-trip tickets and berths in the Milo Malaysia Tennis Circuit slated Dec. 4-20.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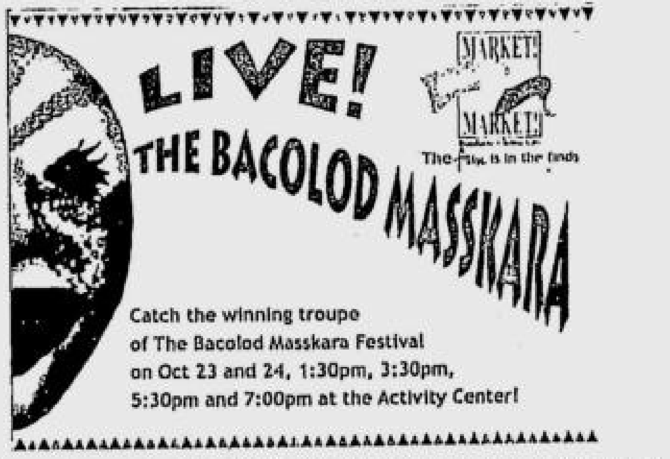
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Arwind Santos leads Magnolia PBL charge

SANTOS: From Tamaraw to Wizard
PDI PHOTO

MAGNOLIA returns to the cage limelight when the San Miguel Corp. franchise unfurls its colors as the Dairy Ice Cream Wizards in the Philippine Basketball League (PBL) Open Championship that kicks off the league's 23rd season on Oct. 23.

The Magnolia Dairy Ice Cream Wizards will be composed of the core of the Far Eastern University Tamaraws, led by 2004 UAAP Most Valuable Player Arwind Santos.

"We are very proud to carry a brand as prestigious as Magnolia Dairy Ice Cream," said coach Koy Banal, pointing back to the Magnolia squad's winning tradition in the 1980s when the PBL was known as the Philippine Amateur Basketball League (PABL).

Magnolia Dairy Ice Cream's PBL comeback signals SMC's return to the ice cream business, with plans to build a modern ice cream plant at an industrial park in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

"The challenge for the team now is also to ensure that we consistently deliver games reflecting the high quality of the brand that we carry," coach Banal added.

SMC's PBL franchise was revived last year, immediately bearing fruit in a runner-up finish as the VIVA! Mineral Water Force in the 2003 1st PBL Unity Cup and, subsequently, a championship trophy in the conference's second edition last June.

The Magnolia Wizards are Cesar Catli (6-3), Antonio Garcia (6-2), Jose Sison (6-1), James Razon (6-6), Joel Co (6- 0), Ryan Joseph Rizada (6-2), Dennis Miranda (6-0), Warren Ybañez (5-7), Mark Isip (6-4), Neil Raneses (6-4), Jason Misolas (6-3), Don Yabut (6-8), Jeffrie Chan (6-2), Arwind Santos (6- 4), Gerard Jones (6-4) and Francis Barcellano (6-5).

Magnolia's PBL board representative is Arni Dy, team manager is Peter Martin. Banal's assistants are Manolito Gonzales, Michael Oliver, Sebastian de Vera and Dario de Rosas.

Summer's Eve meet Nov. 6-7

WOMEN badminton players are invited to the 2nd Whisper-Summer's Eve Badminton Cup from Nov. 6 to 7 at the Yonex Philippines Badminton Club.

Tournament fee is P600 per player inclusive of tournament shirts, court fees, guests fees, shuttlecocks for the games, meals and entrance to the awards night. The leveling is scheduled on Oct. 23-24.

Registration forms are available at Yonex Philippines Badminton Club in Shaw Boulevard, Yonex Shop in Megamall, World Kalakal Inc. at Katipunan and at Xsite Mobile in Megamall.

Registration forms can also be downloaded via www.pbnet.net and www.bloomingfields.net. Last day of registration/payment will be on Oct. 24. Payments are accepted at Yonex Philippines Badminton Club, Yonex Shop, World Kalakal Inc. and Xsite Mobile.

For inquiries, contact Ivy Malago at 0917-4298892 or Bernard Abelada 0917-8105730 or at 8176514 and 8176532.

₱.5-M cash pot at stake in Manila Marathon

HALF a million in cash prizes, including P395,000 in the men's and women's 42-K races, are up for grabs in the 2nd Manila Marathon slated Nov. 28 at the historic Rizal Park.

Organizers said the biggest ever foot race in the country will also kick off the capital city's preparations for hosting the Southeast Asian Games next year.

The Rizal Memorial Sports Complex and the Quirino Grandstand will be the venue of the bulk of the games and activities of the SEAG, which the country is hosting for the third time.

Manila Sports Council chief Arnold "Ali" Atienza, son of Mayor Lito Atienza, said prizes will also be raffled off during the awarding ceremonies of the race backed by Nike and Smart Communications.

Registration is now ongoing.

Top honors will be disputed in the men's and women's categories of the 42-km full marathon, 10K, 5K, Media 5K, Celebrity 5K, and Differently-abled 3-K races. A separate 5-K fun run for youngsters 15 years and under has also been included.

A total of P20,000 have been set aside for the winners in the 10K and media 5K and P12,000 in both the 5K and Celebrity 5K, as well as in the race for the differently-abled. The races are principally organized by the city government in line with Mayor Atienza's Buhayin ang Maynila program.

The 42-km race, which will be fired off at 4 a.m. at Roxas Boulevard (between the Rizal Monument and Quirino Grandstand), will pass through Tondo, Quiapo, Binondo, Sampaloc, Sta. Mesa, Sta. Ana, Paco, San Andres, Singalong, Malate before heading back to the Rizal Park.

Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain, Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit and officials from various national sports associations will be on hand when Mayor Atienza fires off the field of about 40,000.

Runners from Manila's 897 barangays as well as teams from the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, City College of Manila, EARIST, the city's 130 public elementary and secondary schools, the clergy, and the military and police are among the early entries.

Manila Ladies Cup golf set at WW

THE MANILA Ladies Cup fires off Nov. 16 at Wack Wack's west course with the country's top amateurs and a host of international players expected to vie for top honors in various divisions.

Hosted by the Manila Lady Golfers Foundation Inc., the three-in-one fund-raising tournament—benefiting charities for women and children—is spread over three days.

The ladies' and men's team competitions is slated on Nov. 16.

Play continues on Nov. 18 and 19 for the ladies' individual and ladies' team competitions using the 54-hole modified Molave point system. The scores for three days will determine the winners.

Ladies' play will be classified into the following classes: championship, A, B, C, and seniors for 50 years old and above. The ladies' team event will be a six-to-play, four-to-count format.

Proceeds of the tournament, sponsored by Globe Platinum, PacSports, Splash Manufacturing, Norkis Trading Co. Inc., Bingo Bonanza, San Miguel Corp., Fortune Tobacco Corp. and Unilever Phils., will benefit Kythe, a foundation for cancer-stricken children and the Mandaluyong Correctional Women.

"We are proud to be at the forefront of this worthwhile project again," said Betsy Tuason, the foundation's chair.

For inquiries, call the MLGFI at (632) 687-4346, or Butch Brodett and Joel at Wack Wack (632) 7230665, (632) 7236558.

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SMART IDD Takes Jasmine Trias Back to Her Roots

10:30 a.m.: Jasmine and her family leave the Mandarin Oriental riding the "Jas-mobile", a coaster bearing her likeness from the SMART IDD print ads. With an escort of two policemen on motorcycles, Jasmine's entourage swiftly weaves through EDS A traffic, in time for lunch at Dish restaurant in Quezon City.

11:30 a.m.: Time to get ready for an appearance on "Magandang Tanghali, Bayan". Make-up and wardrobe are put on, and Jasmine is all set for her TV guesting.

1:15 p.m.: Jasmine sings the SMART IDD single, "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw" on "Magandang Tanghali, Bayan". Jasmine says how excited she is for the chance to come to the Philippines for the first time. Her parents, grandparents, and siblings watch proudly from the audience as their Jasmine belts out the tune like only she can.

Jamine chats with MTB hosts Arnel Ignacio & Mickey Ferriols

Mayor Raymundo del Rosario of Tanza & Vice-Mayor Marcus Ashley Arayata greet the Fil-Am Idol

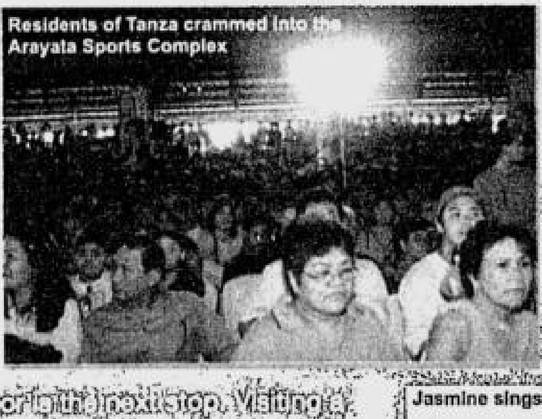
3:00 p.m.: The Jas-mobile makes it way to the Coastal Road as Jasmine Trias is welcomed to the land of her grandparents' birth, Cavite. The media crush is unbelievable, as everyone wants to get a good peek at the Fil-American Idol finalist. The streets of Cavite are lined with people, proudly waving flowers and foam signs declaring Jasmine as "their idol."

Cong. Gilbert Remulla, Vice Gov. Johnvic Remulla, & Vice Mayor Dino Chua greeted Jasmine's entourage at the start of the motorcade

Jas-mania Hits the Road!

4:00 p.m.: The Arayata Sports Complex in Tanza, Cavite was filled to the brim as Caviteños wanted to catch a glimpse of someone whom they consider one of their own. Hosts Dang Cruz and Brad Turvey extolled the virtues of SMART Padala, the world's first overseas remittance service via text, and SMART IDD Pamilyang Pinoy. SMART subscribers who register to Pamilyang Pinoy and actively use IDD are entitled to free rebates. Jasmine then takes the stage to a chorus of cheers while promoting the very affordable rates of 40c a minute when using SMART IDD. Here, she meets Cavite Governor Ayong Maliksi and two people whom she had not met until this visit: her Lolo Emong and Lola Jasmin. These are the two older siblings of Jasmine's own lolo, Rogelio Trias.

Residents of Tanza crammed into the Arayata Sports Complex

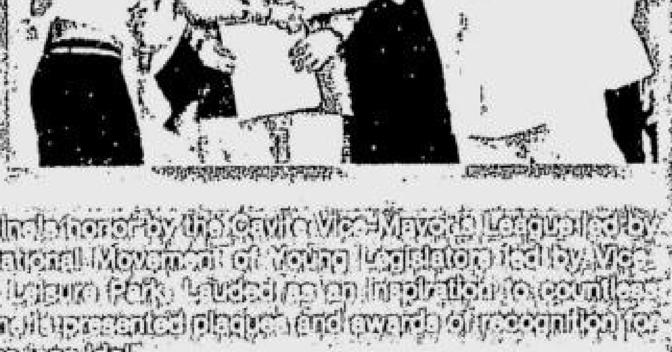


Lolo [illegible]

Jasmine sang for her provincemates in SM City Bacoor and also handed out some gifts

5:00 p.m.: SM City Bacoor is the next stop. Visiting a mall proves to be just as crazy as the other places on this whirlwind tour. She receives flowers everywhere she goes, from D' Flower Facade of Mr. Francis Hen Jr.

Gov. Ayong Maliksi greets Jasmine together with other Caviteño leaders



Jasmine sings "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw", the SMART IDD jingle

Brad Turvey and Dang Cruz hosted the party in Jasmine's honor

6:30 p.m.: A dinner is held in Jasmine's honor by the Cavite Vice-Mayor's League led by Vice-Mayor Manny Maliksi and the National Movement of Young Legislators led by Vice-Mayor Dino Chua at the Island Cove Leisure Park. Lauded as an inspiration to countless Filipinos both here and abroad, Jasmine is presented plaques and awards of recognition for her exceptional display of talent in "American Idol".

7:30 p.m.: Jasmine's entourage finally rolls out of Cavite and heads back to Manila. It took 17 years for Jasmine to set foot on Philippine soil, and the reception of Filipino hospitality was a bit overwhelming. But there's no denying how happy she felt to be welcomed home like the heroine she has become.

SMART IDD

SATURDAY Special
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Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo
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PALTROW AND LAW. Classic good looks that enhance "Sky Captain's" visual magic.

NOW SHOWING

Laurence Olivier makes posthumous cinematic comeback

By Rito P. Asilo

"Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow"

D: Kerry Conran
S: Jude Law, Gwyneth Paltrow, Angelina Jolie

A PERIOD film set in 1939—a time when the world is in the throes of a new socio-political order—follows passionate reporter Polly Perkins' (Gwyneth Paltrow) investigation into the disappearance of the world's top scientists.

She enlists the help of former flame, Joe "Sky Captain" Sullivan (Jude Law), who in turn seeks the assistance of another ex-fling, fearless British pilot Franky Cook (Angelina Jolie), to thwart an evil German scientist's diabolical plan to destroy the current world to realize his utopian vision. Watch out, giant robots are coming!

Dreamy, lavish images, chalked up in digital, computer-generated splendor, will have techno geeks and film buffs hyperventilating in breathless glee—and understandably so.

In the film's much-hyped "groundbreaking" technology, actors perform in front of a blue screen, which is later composited with images generated from computers. (We have recently seen Enki Bilal's sleek, futuristic French opus, "Immortel," which boasts of the same technology.)

The exuberant, nostalgia-tinged images, further enhanced by Law, Paltrow and Jolie's classic good looks, naturally engage—initially, that is. But, the power of its visual magic soon loses steam because of a dated story, a weak script, and curiously "compromised" performances.

LAU, KANESHIRO and ZHANG. Fiery tenacity.

"Sky Captain" also marks the cinematic comeback of —gasp!—Laurence Olivier (who died in 1989, and is "reincarnated" through old film clips), although the posthumous use of an actor without his knowledge raises an ethical issue.

"House of Flying Daggers"

D: Zhang Yimou
S: Zhang Ziyi, Takeshi Kaneshiro, Andy Lau

In Zhang Yimou's visually audacious, emotionally-charged martial arts spectacle, daggers aren't the only objects that take flight in stunning regularity.

Set in the year 859 near the end of China's corrupt Tang Dynasty, police deputies, Jin (Takeshi Kaneshiro) and Leo (Andy Lau), set up a sting for a blind but gifted courtesan *cum* dancer (the luminous Zhang Ziyi), who's suspected to have ties with the House of Flying Daggers, a revolutionary squad of assassins waging guerilla insurgency against the decadent regime.

Jin and Leo don't just end up protecting her from sinister government forces, they also find themselves caught in a dilemma more complex than anything an army could wage—the love triangle!

The Chinese film master (who directed the powerful "Raise the Red Lantern" and the slow but visually stunning "Hero) demonstrates his mastery of cinematic language by giving this familiar story of war, love and deception a confounding but beautifully executed twist.

His ingenious use of local color in visually sweeping fashion is evident in breathtaking, deftly choreographed. scenes like the echo dance and the fight sequence in the bamboo grove. It's hard not to be impressed!

Occasionally slowed down by protracted fight scenes, the movie is aided by great-looking actors who vivify their characters' inner turmoil with generous sincerity and fiery tenacity—most notably Zhang Ziyi, a cinematic muse worthy of praise and emulation.

Film leaders work together to rescue movie industry

By Nestor U. Torre

THE FILM Development Council of the Philippines headed by Laurice Guillen organized a consultative meeting at the Asian Institute of Management between some senators and various stakeholders in the Philippine movie industry last Oct. 2, after Senators Jinggoy Estrada, Bong Revilla and Lito Lapid asked for proposals designed to revive or boost the domestic film industry.

The important meeting was facilitated by AIM professors Cecile Manikan, Rene Domingo, Titos Ortigas, Pat Lontoc and Tommy Lopez, who contributed their expertise to the challenging task of confronting and analyzing the movie industry's many problems, and charting achievable solutions.

Heartening

While the senators were only represented by their staffers, it was heartening to see many of our film leaders meeting and working together to refocus and revive local movies:

Film Academy of the Philippines director-general Leo Martinez, chairman Esperidion Laxa; DGPI president Carlitos Siguion-Reyna, KDPP president William Mayo, FDCP trustees Marilou Diaz-Abaya, Bien Lumbera and CCP president Nestor Jardin; NCCA officials Emilie Tiongco and Elvert Bañares; National Artist Eddie Romero,

IFFCOM chairman Marichu Maceda, vice chairman Robbie Tan, and member Carlos de Leon; SM cinemas' Ric Camaligan, MMTA's Marcus Ng, Ed Sazon and Alex Laviña; KASIPIL president Honesto Miranda and Pio M. Timoteo; KAPPT's Johnny Delgado, Mike Idioma of Roadrunner Videopost, Rolando Dueñas of Ayala Cinemas;

Producers Lily Monteverde of Regal, Tess Fuentes of Star Cinema, and Tony Gloria of Unitel; distributor Wilson Tieng, Caesar Ditan of International Academy of Film and Television, Communication Research Center's Rusty Padojinog, University of Asia and the Pacific's Winston Padojinog and Maia King, and AIM's Chris Costello.

GUILLEN. FDCP prime mover.

With this comprehensive representation, the industry and its supporters have a good chance of working together and getting results.

At the meeting, FDCP head Guillen urged the participants to come up with a shared strategy for the revitalization of the industry, and to identify and establish the parameters for collective action.

Another major concern was the need to move the Filipino film industry toward global competitiveness.

With Prof. Manikan facilitating, the participants used the successful experience of the South Korean movie industry as a comparative springboard for their discussion.

Two-pronged approach

The body then decided on a two-pronged approach: On the short term, first gather baseline data on the industry, form a committee to study the major issue of excessive taxation, then prepare a proposal for legislative action.

On the long term, draft an advocacy plan, undertake a continuing advocacy campaign, and study the proposal on a "Subic film zone."

There have been similar meetings conducted in the past, but last Oct. 2's consultative session was deemed by some participants to have a better chance of success, because the industry's different stakeholders were well-represented.

Also, the industry's problems now are truly severe, so the need is great for the new effort to succeed. Therefore, we can expect our film leaders to work more cohesively and dynamically together, to rescue and revitalize the long-suffering Filipino film industry.

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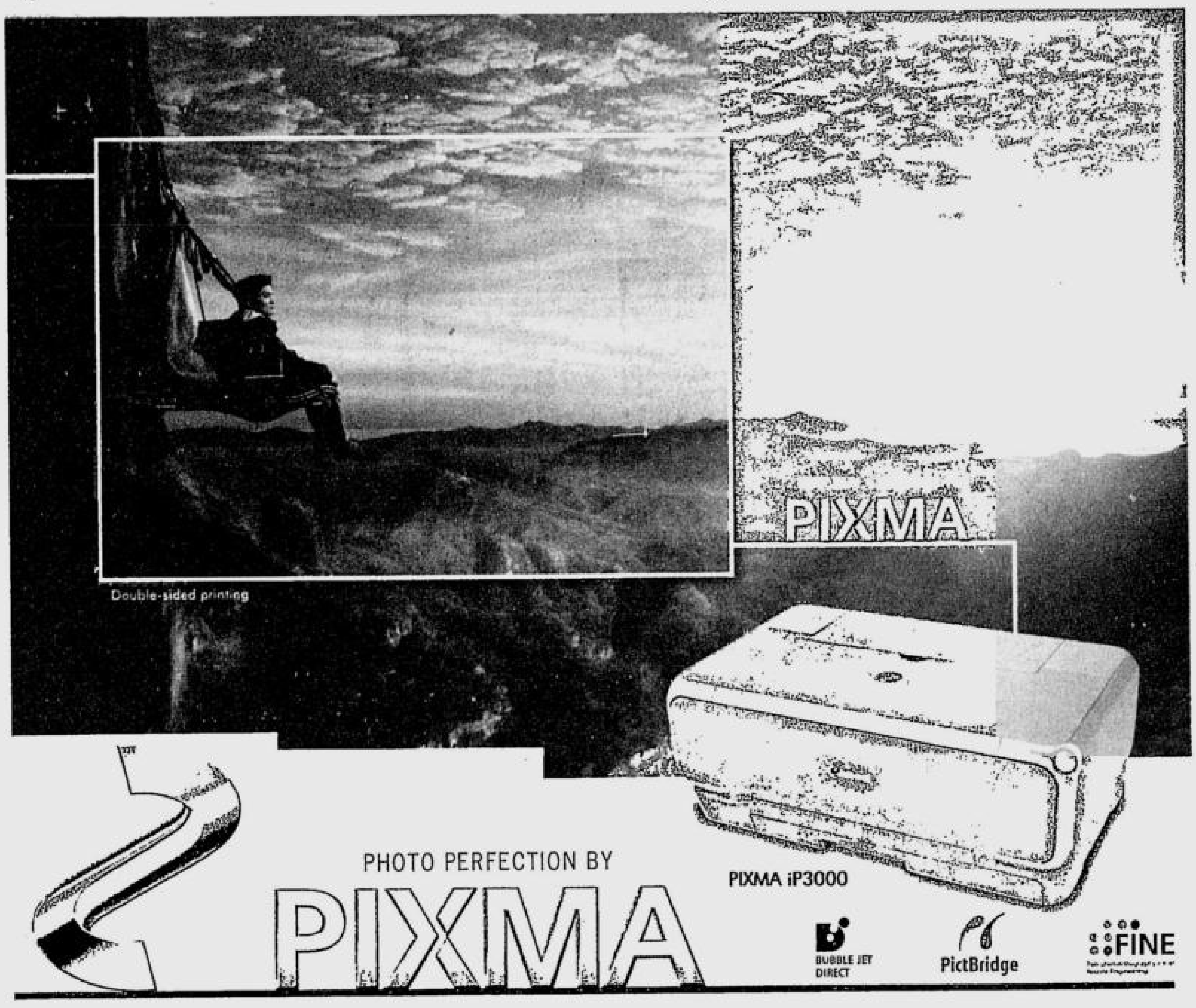

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Nature or nurture

FAMILY of entrepreneurs: (Clockwise from left) Lex, Cheese, Czarina and mom Candy Ledesma.

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

IS an entrepreneurial mind a product of nurture or nature? Why are the Chinese always assumed to be good in business? Is it in the blood, or in the environment? But, an entrepreneurial mindset can be taught. The earlier in life one begins forging this spirit and skill, the greater the likelihood of success.

For the Ledesma family, learning at an early age was encouraged and rewarded. As children, some elementary principles ingrained in them included accounting for their money.

Accounting

Before the following week's allowance would be disbursed, each child had to produce detailed accounting of how he spent his allowance the week before. It wasn't so much the spending, what mattered was the accounting.

They were encouraged to save money from their allowance to contribute to the family fund for their trips to Disneyland. Lex and Cheese first went to the States when they were six and eight years old, respectively. They especially cherished their trip because they saved for it. The value they were taught: Money is hard-earned, and luxury should be enjoyed *and* should also be worked hard for.

This made it almost inevitable for the Ledesma kids to start their own business to enable them to buy the things that they wanted.

When Czarina was in second year high school, for example, she supplied retail stores in malls with notepads called The Mousetrap, a unique product which had high market demand.

New ideas

The children used their travels to find new ideas to take back home. During a visit to Baguio, Cheese purchased hand-knit sweaters which she sold door to door in her dorm at Georgetown University.

Modest successes and failures in business early on set the children on the road to the entrepreneurial world.

After finishing Master's degrees at Stanford University, Cheese and Lex embarked on numerous ventures: Cheese founded The Big Chill, now a chain of 20 juice bars; they are both involved in Nami, a high-end boutique resort in Boracay, and in Karaoke King, a chain of 14 mini-recording studios in malls.

Catalyst

Currently, their advocacy is to promote entrepreneurship as catalyst for economic growth. They would like to spend time mentoring the youth to become leaders who create jobs.

To do this, they invested in the CIE Academy, an International Associate Partner of the University of Cambridge in the UK. It is currently accepting applicants for the October trimester for the Entrepreneurship course.

The school is located at the 28th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala cor. Sen. Gil Puyat ave., Makati City. Call (632) 887-2828 or (632) 753-2828, visit their website www.cie.edu or email cie.alce@cie.edu.

Email the author at mandynavasero@photopro.com.ph

Second

From page A2-7

performed one afternoon at Dish, which served as a preview for their Oct. 21 concert, "Loud and Clear," at Ratsky's in Morato.

Dance groups

The vocalists also danced up a storm while singing "Horny," "I'm Gonna Get You" and Black Eyed Peas' "Shut Up." Joel used to be a member of dance groups like Solid Gold, Kookooz, Katz 22, UMD and Kids at Work.

Concepcion points out, though, that they also do power pop and classic ballads.

Rie, the lone female member of the group, can belt out Mariah Carey's "Through the Rain," and groove like Beyoncé and Alicia Keys. Christian, on the other hand, croons the hits of Martin Nievera and Ric Segreto.

"Audiences always ask us to play 'Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang' and 'Rainbow,' so we do those, too," nods Joel, whose musical influences include Usher and Dr. Dre.

Braids

He sports stylish braids adorned with feathers from a chicken, a hawk and a pigeon. He's looking for a peacock and a turkey, but don't worry, he'll wait for the birds to molt first before he uses their feathers for his unique hair ornaments.

They call themselves Second Call because it's their second shot at pop stardom, says Christian. "Our vocalists and drummer come from a group named Twisted 8, which lasted for only a year, because some members didn't take the band seriously. When they left, we decided to recruit new talents. Then, Second Call was 'reborn' in October last year."

They are determined more than ever to make it big and stay long in the biz, just like Side A. They are now writing songs for their first album.

MOVIE GUIDE
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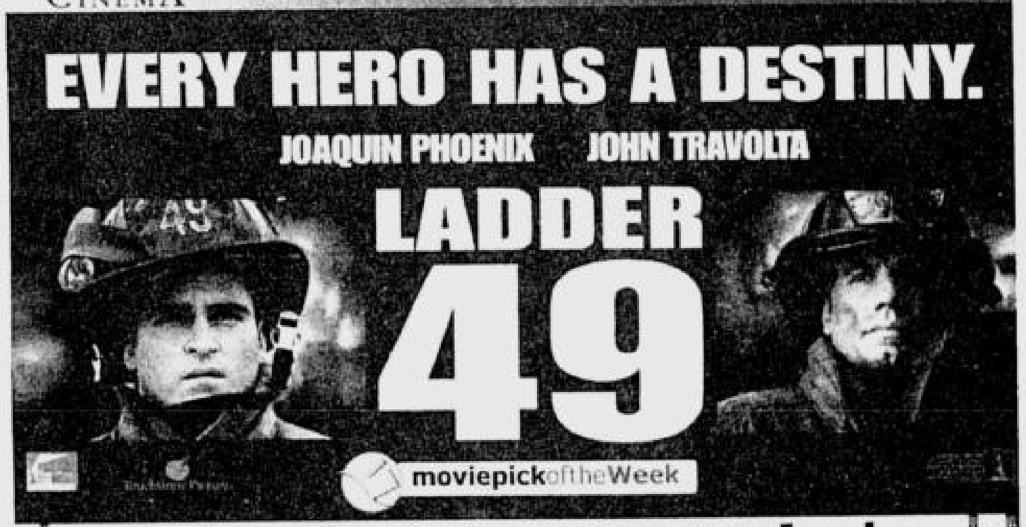

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LADDER 49
moviepickoftheWeek

whattowatch

LADDER 49 MTRCB Rating: PG 13
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SM City Bacoor Cinema 3
SM City Marilao Cinema 4
SM City Baguio Cinema 4

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SM City Bacoor Cinema 2
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SM City Pampanga Cinema 3
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SM City Marilao Cinema 2

SHARK TALE MTRCB Rating: G
SM City Bacoor Cinema 4
SM City Davao Cinema 6
SM City Cebu Cinema 3
SM City Pampanga Cinema 2
SM City Baguio Cinema 1
SM City Dasmariñas Cinema 4
SM City Cagayan Cinema 3
SM City Marilao Cinema 1

RESIDENT EVIL MTRCB Rating: R 13
SM City Bacoor Cinema 7
SM CityCebu Cinema 8
SM City Davao Cinema 5

THREE MTRCB Rating: R 13
SM City Bacoor Cinema 8

BOURNE SUPREMACY MTRCB Rating PG 13
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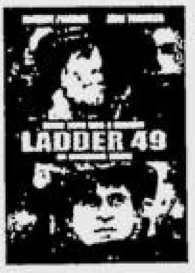

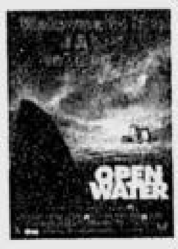

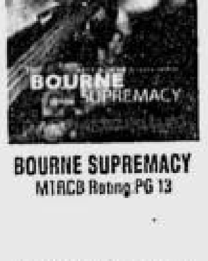

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4 LADDER 49

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4 THE NOTEBOOK
5 SAVED
6 HAUNTED SPIRITS 2

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4 SECRET WINDOW
5 SHARK TALE

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Bond performs at PICC on Oct. 20

MONTAGE

AT 8 p.m. on Oct. 20, bond, the hit UK string quartet that has reshaped and redefined classical music for today's audiences, will perform cuts from its latest album "Classified" at the PICC.

The exciting musical event will give local music fans a chance to experience the innovative group's unique stylings. Tania Davis (on viola), Gay-Yee Westerhoff (cello), and Haylie Ecker and Eos Chater (violins) infuse Latin and Eastern influences that energize their numbers with dance and world rhythm beats.

Of the cuts in the new album, "Explosive" has been getting the most extensive airplay on local radio stations. The concert repertoire will also include cuts from bond's past two releases, like "Kismet," "Quixote" and "Victory."

"Traditionally" classical music fans could give the show a go, too. As long as they aren't parsimoniously purist, they could find themselves enjoying it as well, along with their chidlren—and grandchildren?

Award-winning films at Greenbelt

On Oct. 23 and 24, four award-winning German movies will be screened at Greenbelt Cinema 1 as part of the ongoing "Germany . . . it's more than you think!" celebration:

Oct. 23 at 7 p.m., "Trains n' Roses"—A romantic comedy about a lonely beer truck driver. On a train ride to Finland, he gets involved with a ring of counterfeiters, and falls for one of them.

At 9 p.m., "Run Lola Run" —Franka Potente plays a young German woman who finds herself in a 20-minute race to save her boyfriend's life by helping him find a huge amount of gangsters' money he has carelessly lost.

Oct. 24 at 7 p.m., "Life Is All You Get"—about the love between a young man caught in a web of conflicts and a mysterious street singer.

At 9 p.m., "Mostly Martha"—about a 30-year-old chef whose monotonous life is suddenly altered by the arrival of her eight-year-old niece. Call 845-1324.

'Easy English' seminar

Corban Daycare and Tutorial Center will hold an "Easy English" seminar starting on Oct.. 17 and 24, from 2 to 5 p.m. The seminar totals 30 hours, and will be held for 10 consecutive Sundays.

It will focus on English conversation, grammar, vocabulary building and pronunciation. Call 842-6665.

Student's art exhibition

The 2004 Shell National Student's Art Exhibition is ongoing until Oct. 30 at the 4th level, Bridgeway, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. The awarding cerenfonies were held last Oct. 14.

Tsugaru Shamisen

The Japan Foundation and the Cultural Center of the Philippines are presenting an invitational performance of Tsugaru Shamisen at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 23 at the CCP's Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino.

The presentation features the father and son shamisen duo of Hiroshi and Masahiro Nitta. The Makiling Ensemble will also perform.

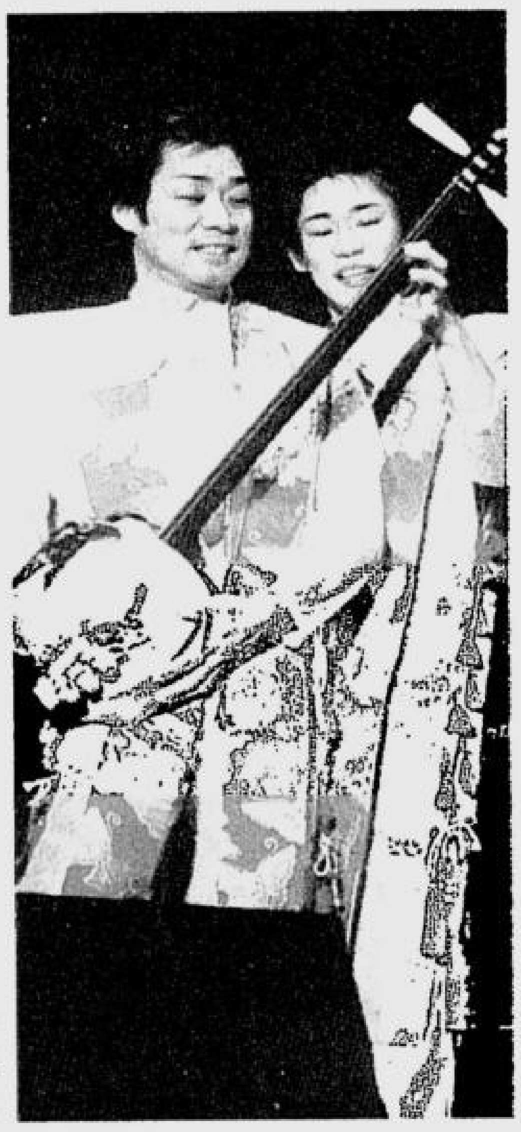
At 3 p.m. on Oct. 24, the performance is open to the public, free of charge. And at 7 p.m. on Oct.. 25, the Nitta shamisen duo will have a dinner performance at the Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental Manila.

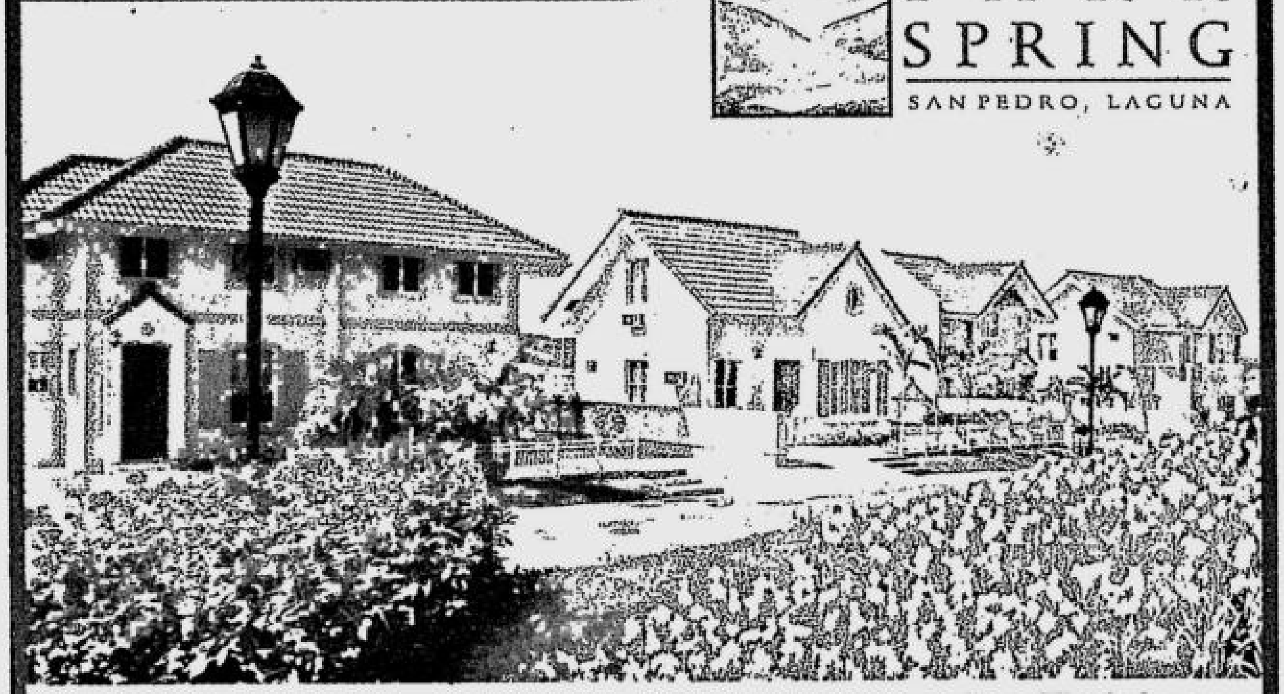
Mall tours

MTV Credit Card is currently making the rounds of malls to make credit card application faster and more convenient. Up to Oct. 24, catch MTV Credit Card at the Glorietta, Ayala Center.

BOND/ A2-6

BOND. Hit UK string quartet has reshaped and redefined classical music.


HIROSHI and Masahiro Nitta, father and son shamisen duo.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Shark Tale makes a Splash with SMART Kid

SMART Kid recently premiered the hit animated movie "Shark Tale" at THX Cinema last Sunday, October 3. Featuring the voices of Will Smith, Robert de Niro, Renee Zellweger, Jack Black and Angelina Jolie, the film tells the story of Oscar (Will Smith) a fast-talking little fish who dreams big. But his big dreams land get him in trouble when a white lie turns him into an unlikely hero. At first, his fellow fish believe Oscar's story hook, line and sinker and he is showered with fame and fortune. It's all going along fine and dandy, until it starts to become clear that Oscar's tale about being the defender of the Reef is not true. Now he has to tread water until he can get the scales to tip back in his favor again.

SMART Kid boasts two unique concepts that both parents and kids will appreciate. "Family Finder" allows your child to get in touch with selected members of his family by simply dialling "11" on his SMART Kid celfone. If none of the family members can be reached, a text message is sent to you that your kid is attempting to contact you. And with the "Kid Locator" feature, you can always know where exactly your kid is. By simply registering your kid's celfone number via access code 386, you can have peace of mind knowing your kid's whereabouts anytime you choose, just by texting WIS<space>kid's celfone number to access code 386. You can now know your kid's exact location without even having to phone him.

Before the days of wireless technology, keeping in touch with your children was practically impossible while on the go. Today, you don't have to worry about their well-being while you are apart. With SMART Kid, they'll only be a few clicks away. And you and your kid will always stay connected.

SMART Kid
The Celfone for Kids

SMART kids pose with Marty outside the THX Cinema.

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SMART PADALA CENTER
SMART
Simply Amazing
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Kaya register for FREE at mag-Load na Araw-Araw! *WINNER KA SA SM*

Para mag-register sa raffle, key in MILYON space REG space <Full Name>* <Address>* <Birthday–mmddyyyy >* <Gender–M or F>

MILYON REG
Mica Cruz*
12 Sta. Cruz St.,
Manila*03191981*
F

Send to 270.

270

(Siguraduhing mag-register para mag-earn ng raffle entries.)

To check the number of raffle entries earned+, key in MILYON ENTRY.
(Cost is ₱2.50 per inquiry)

MILYON ENTRY

Send to 270.

270

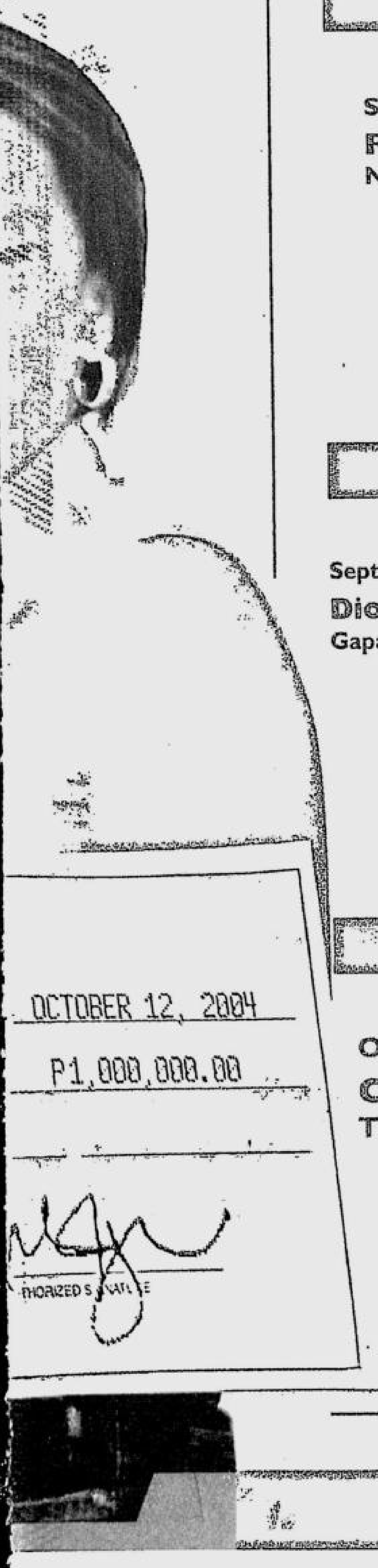
+Raffle entries earned per load are qualified for the daily draw but will be reflected the following day.

SMART BALITANG MILYONARYO

Sa Bawat Load,* ₱1 Million Araw-Araw Papremyo!

May 10% Extra Load pa Agad-agad!

Eto Na Ang Mga Naging Maswerteng Milyonaryo!



1st Week Winners!

September 25 Draw
Regina Darjuan
Navotas, Metro Manila

September 26 Draw
Florabel Palmares
Dueñas, Iloilo

September 27 Draw
Cherrica Marbas
Bata Aliaga, Nueva Ecija

September 28 Draw
Rosalie Olabiaga
Naga City, Bicol

September 29 Draw
Ar-gie Benito
Urdaneta, Pangasinan

2nd Week Winners!

September 30 Draw
Diosdado Paglalunan
Gapan City

October 1 Draw
Momie Fetalvero
Valenzuela, Metro Manila

October 2 Draw
Gweneth Remigio
Novaliches, Q.C.

October 3 Draw
Ralff Joseph Miranda
Lucban, Quezon

October 4 Draw
Michell Dy
Cainta, Rizal

October 5 Draw
Jesus Jhenrey P. Reginales
Talisay, Sorsogon

October 6 Draw
Mary Ann Antonio
Imus, Cavite

3rd Week Winners!

October 7 Draw
Crispin D. Andaya
Tanauan City

October 8 Draw
Arcelie J. Serrano
Pampanga

October 9 Draw
Francia Arlen O. Delfino
Camarines Sur

October 10 Draw
Liezel Quirimit
Pangasinan

October 11 Draw
Daisy E. Maputol
Bukidnon

SMART Milyonaryo!

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SMART Load Denomination	10% Extra Load	Raffle Entries Earned
Php 30	P 3.00	1 entry
Php 60	P 6.00	3 entries
Php 115	P 12.00	10 entries
Php 200	P 20.00	20 entries

*Available only for:

SMART Buddy Load

TALK 'N TEXT Load

SMART Padala Transactions will not earn raffle entries.

SMART
Simply Amazing!

See posters and flyers for details.
Promo is from September 25 to October 24, 2004.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2107, Series of 2004.

For questions, comments, or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, *888 using your SMART celfone, send a text message to 888 (P1.00 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation), e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph, log on to www.smart.com.ph or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

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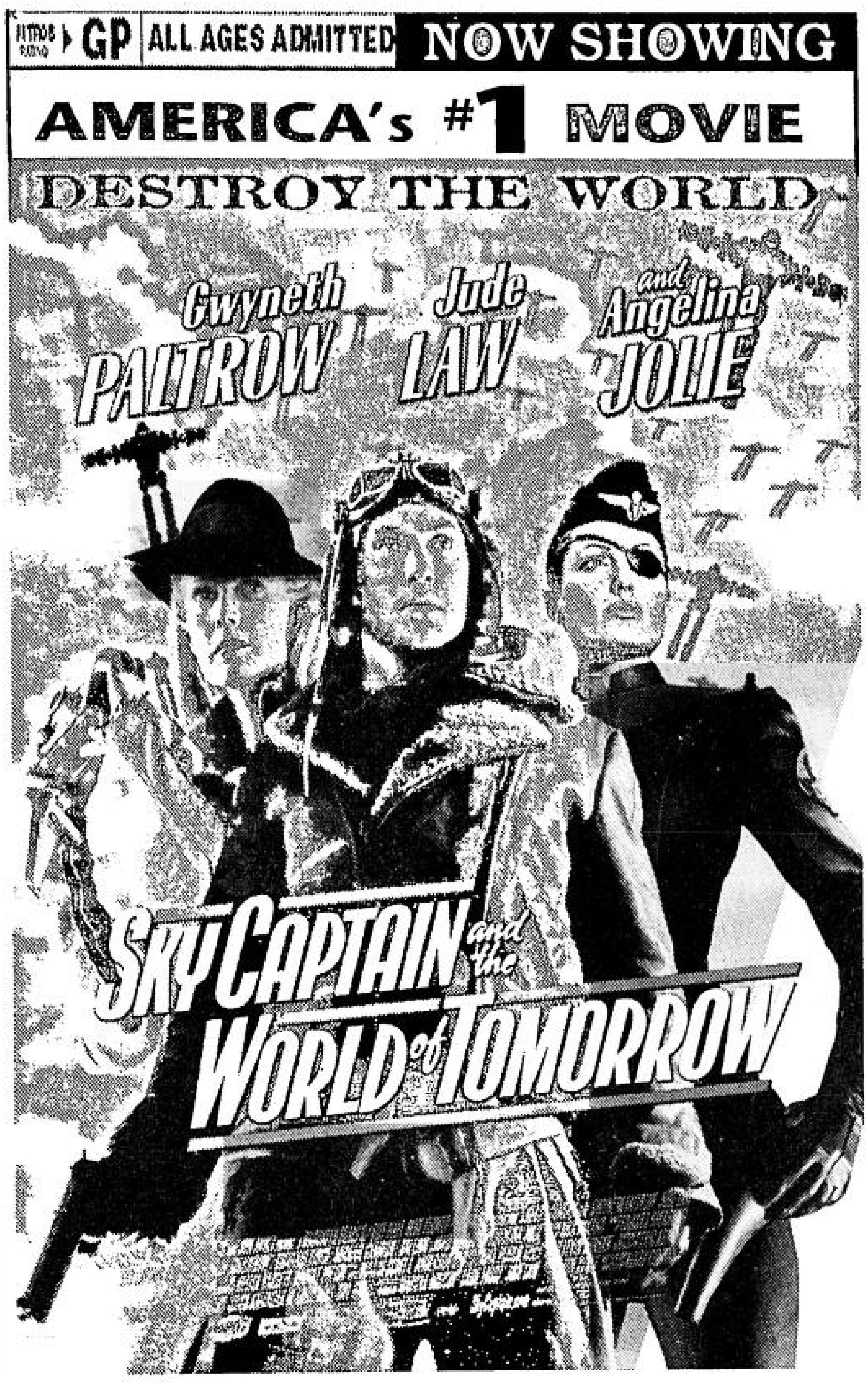
十面埋伏
HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
DISTRIBUTED BY WARNER BROS. PICTURES


MTRCB RATING GP ALL AGES ADMITTED NOW SHOWING
AMERICA's #1 MOVIE
DESTROY THE WORLD
Gwyneth PALTROW
Jude LAW
and Angelina JOLIE
SKY CAPTAIN and the WORLD of TOMORROW

Bond...

From page A2-3

An unbeatable perk: MTV Credit Card offers free for life membership, annual and extension card fees for cardholders whose total charged purchases in a year reach at least P60,000.

'The Core'

At 9 p.m. on Oct. 17, Cinemax screens "The Core." In the movie, the Earth's inner core has stopped rotating, for unknown reasons. As a result, the planet's electromagnetic field is rapidly deteriorating. Instantly, life changes dramatically, and unexplained catastrophes strike.

To prevent the planet's total destruction, a team of experts digs down into the earth's core, and attempts to rehabilitate it. the film stars Hilary Swank and Stanley Tucci.

'Kontrobersyal'

Boy Abunda interviews action star Ace Vergel on his new lease on life, and his future plans at 11:30 p.m. today on ABS-CBN.

The show also profiles a prostitute stationed in malls, and investigates why prostitution is rampant in the university belt.

Sanchez

Singer-songwriter Sanchez guests at 4 p.m. today at the IDOL-Ko grand Finals, i-FM's talent search at Cuneta Astrodome. On. Oct. 17 at 3 p.m., he performs in the "Madz + 1" Madrigal Singers concert at the CCP. Call 413-0814.

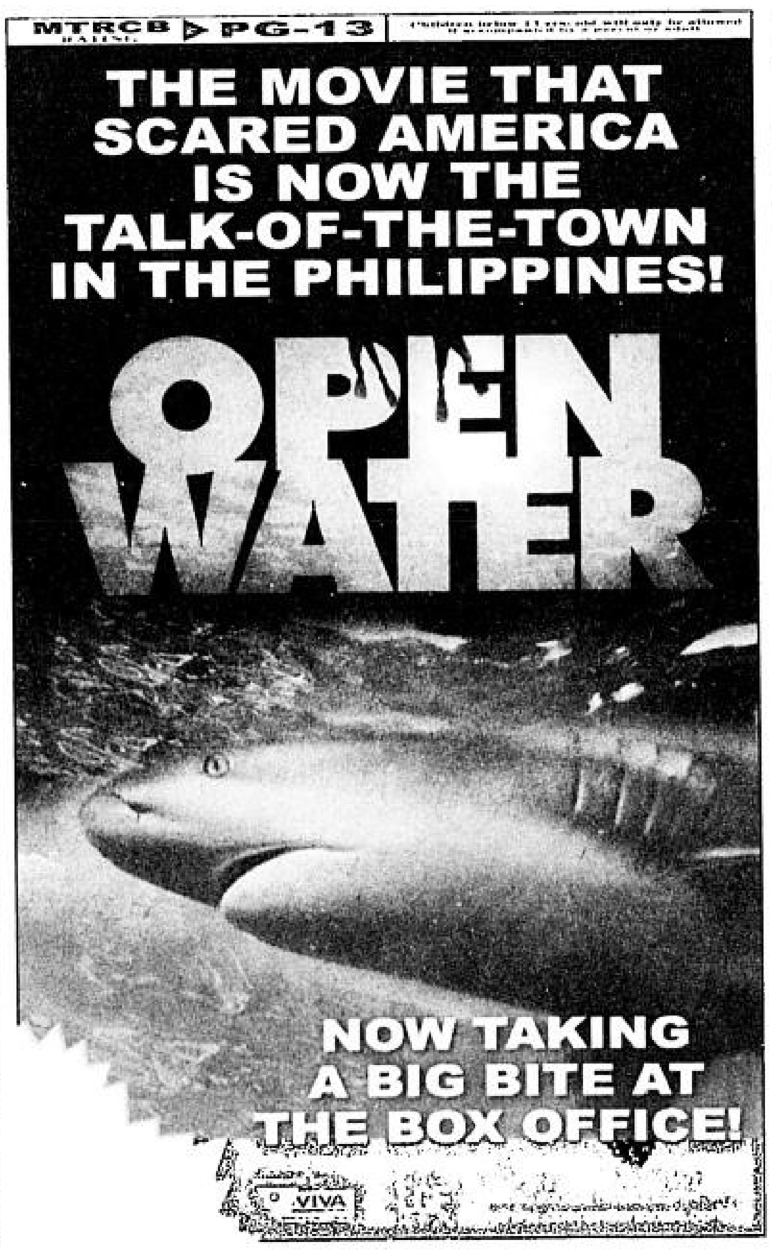
Movies on TV

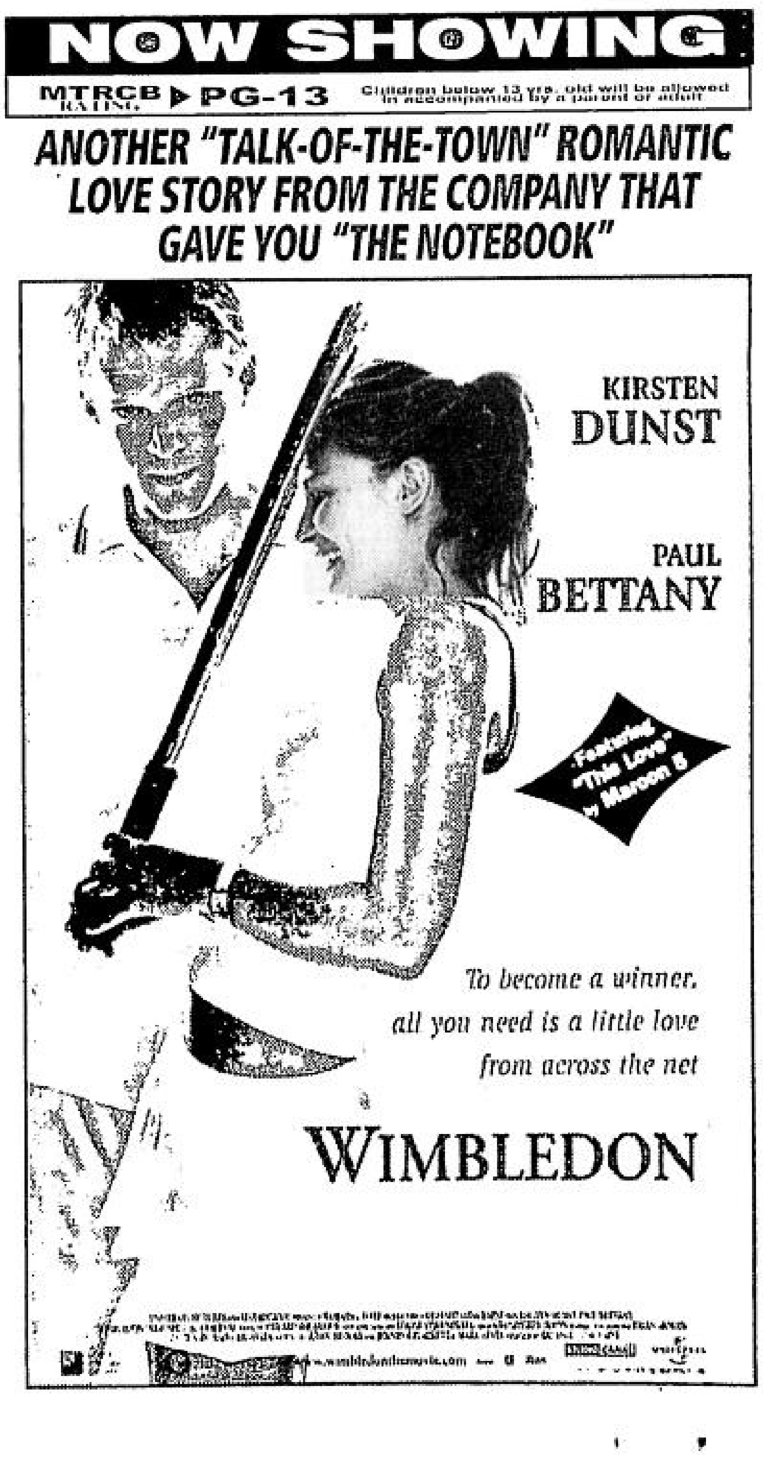
On HBO, Oct. 16 at 1 p.m., "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets." Oct. 17 at 2:15 p.m., "Clueless." Oct. 18 at 1:45 p.m., "Road to Redemption." Oct. 19 at 3 p.m., "The Remains of the Day." Oct. 20 at 12 noon, "About Schmidt." Oct. 21 at 1 p.m., "Casualties of War." Oct. 22 at 9 p.m., "Spider Man."

On Cinemax, Oct. 16 at 9:45 a.m., "Sudden Terror: The Hijacking of School Bus #17." Oct. 17 at 5:30 p.m., "Billy Madison." Oct. 18 at 9 p.m., "Gotti." Oct. 19 at 9:15 a.m., "Funny Girl." Oct. 20 at 1:15 p.m., "Born on the Fourth of July." Oct. 21 at 10:30 p.m., "Charlotte Gray." Oct. 22 at 10:30 a.m., "Batman Returns."

SWANK. Stars in "The Core" on Cinemax.

THIRD WEEK!
MTRCB R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
FLASH FLASH FLASH
BREAKING BOXOFFICE RECORDS IN MANILA
MILLA JOVOVICH
The beginning of the end.
#1 MOVIE IN AMERICA
RESIDENT EVIL: Apocalypse


MTRCB PG-13
THE MOVIE THAT SCARED AMERICA IS NOW THE TALK-OF-THE-TOWN IN THE PHILIPPINES!
OPEN WATER
NOW TAKING A BIG BITE AT THE BOX OFFICE!
VIVA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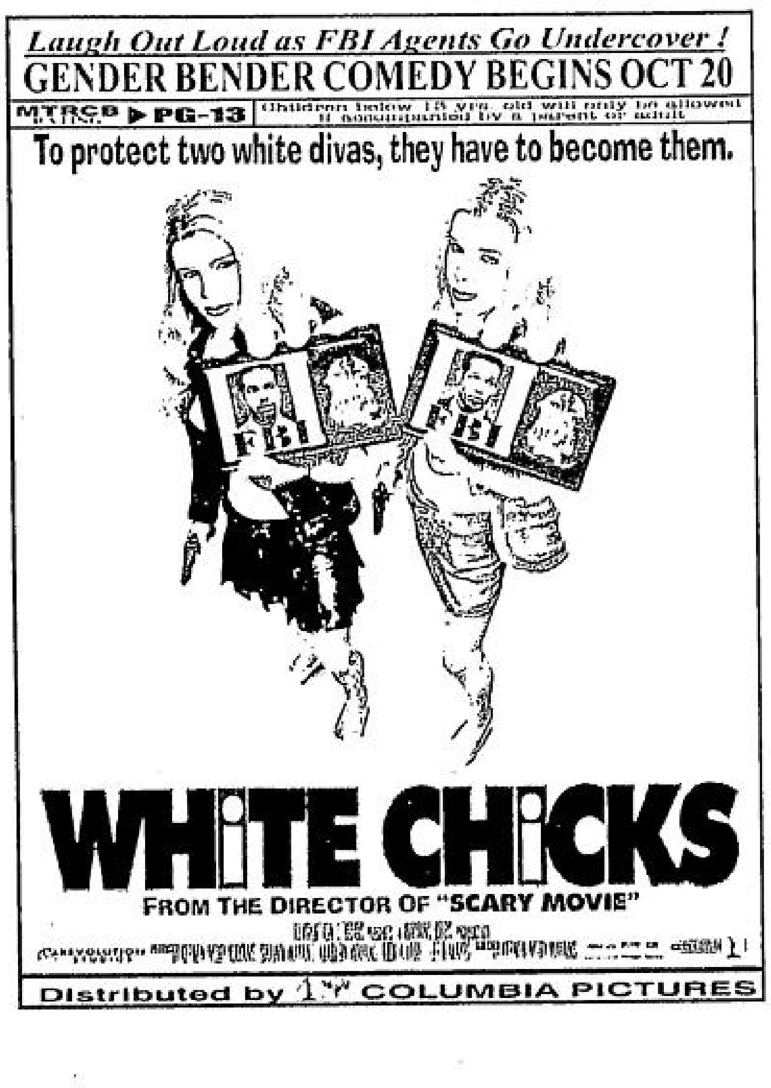
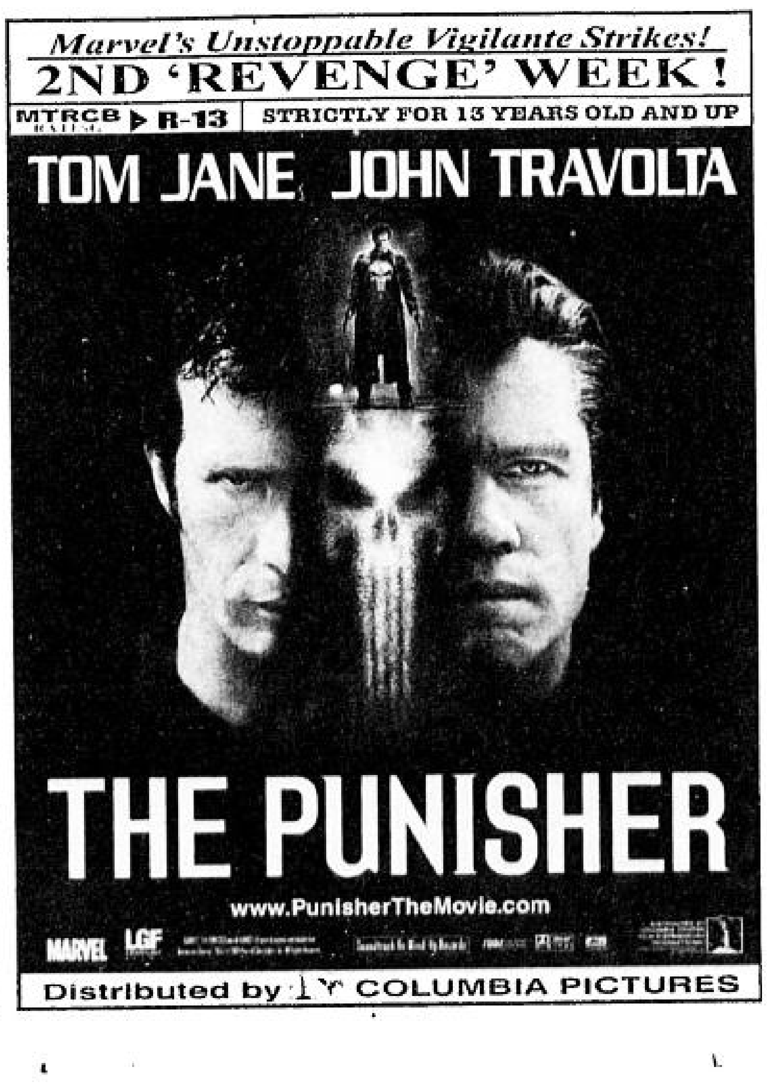
ANOTHER "TALK-OF-THE-TOWN" ROMANTIC LOVE STORY FROM THE COMPANY THAT GAVE YOU "THE NOTEBOOK"
KIRSTEN DUNST
PAUL BETTANY
Featuring "This Love" by Maroon 5
To become a winner, all you need is a little love from across the net
WIMBLEDON


Laugh Out Loud as FBI Agents Go Undercover!
GENDER BENDER COMEDY BEGINS OCT 20
MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
To protect two white divas, they have to become them.
FBI
FBI
WHITE CHICKS
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "SCARY MOVIE"
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES


Marvel's Unstoppable Vigilante Strikes!
2ND 'REVENGE' WEEK!
MTRCB R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OLD AND UP
TOM JANE JOHN TRAVOLTA
THE PUNISHER
www.PunisherTheMovie.com
MARVEL
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

Second Call takes another shot at the big time

By Jocelyn Valle

SECOND Call, a young band composed of vocalists Joel Concepcion, Rie Patchaligan and Christian Omaña, bassist Jimmy Vitocruz, keyboardist Cedrick Casulla, drummer Aidan Mendoza and guitarist Mark Almonte, starts its gigs with the Bobby Brown hit, "Every Little Step."

"It sets the pace for the show," explains Joel, adding that his group plays a lot of dance and R&B numbers. They do so with infectious energy and enthusiasm.

We found this out when they

SECOND/ A2-2

POP septet performs with infectious enthusiasm.

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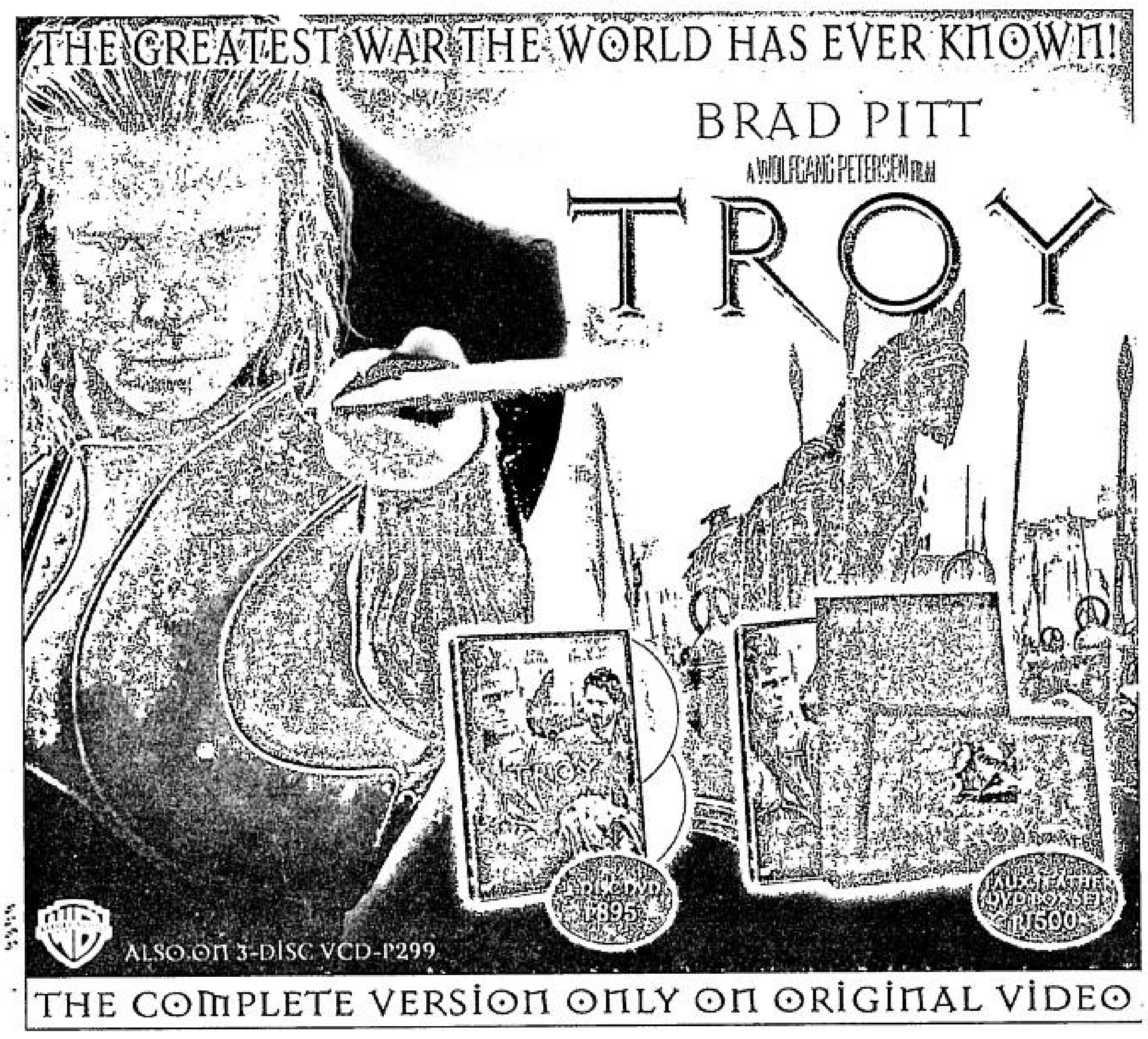
Nine years ago, two strangers met by chance
and spent a night in Vienna that ended before sunrise...
Paris 2004 –
They're about to meet for the first time since.
Ethan Hawke Julie Delpy
Before Sunset
October 27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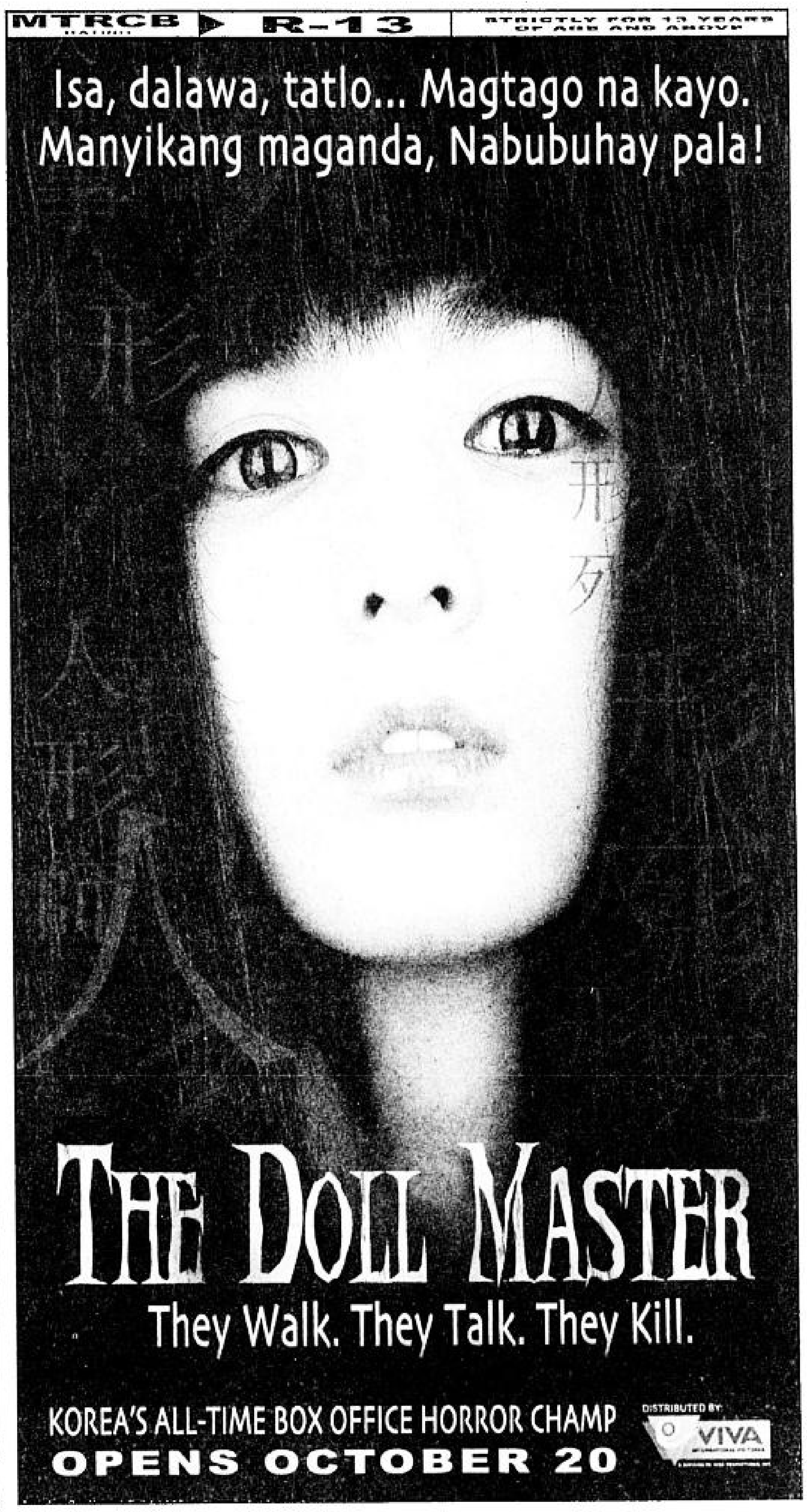
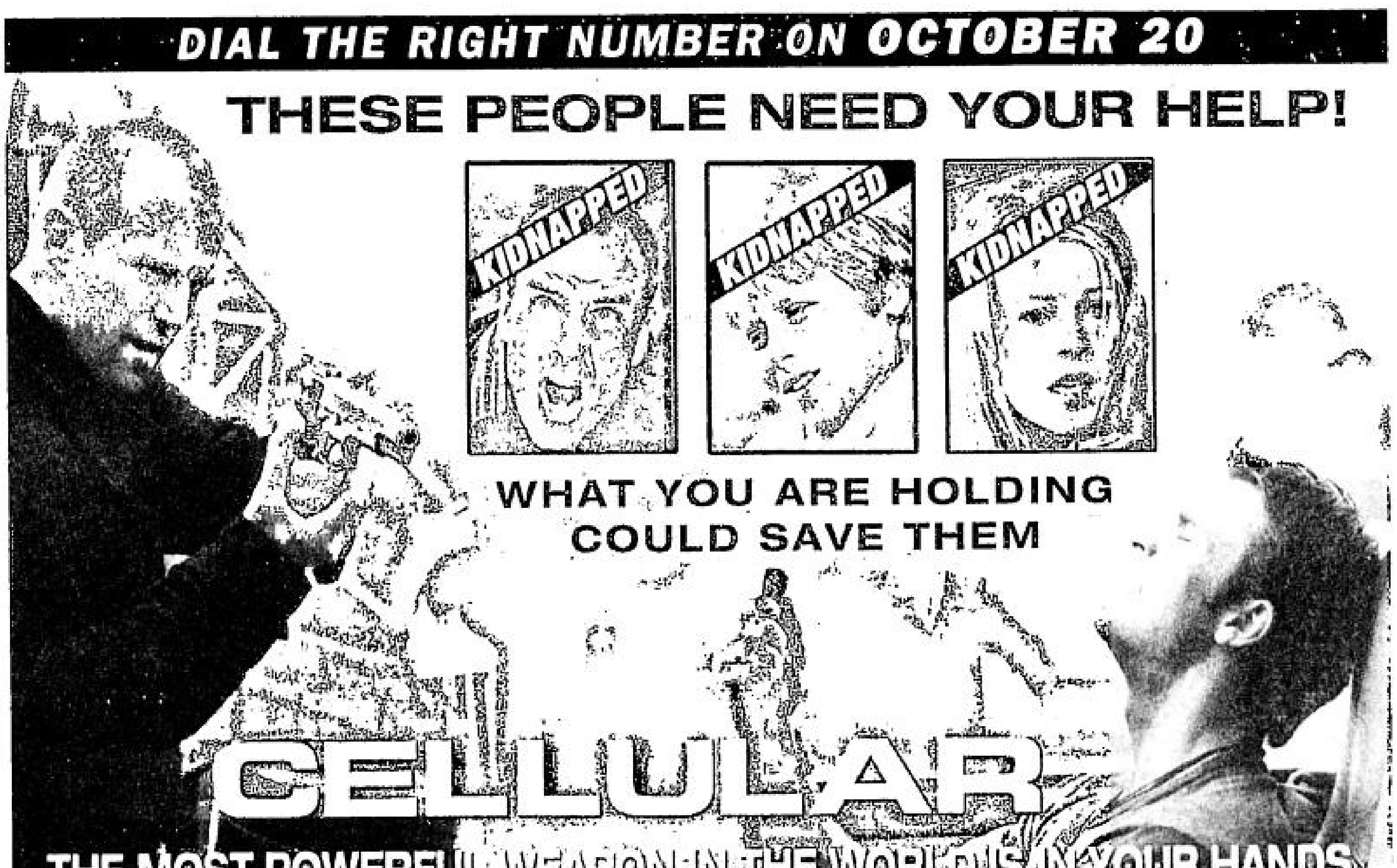

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
Isa, dalawa, tatlo... Magtago na kayo.
Manyikang maganda, Nabubuhay pala!
THE DOLL MASTER
They Walk. They Talk. They Kill.
KOREA'S ALL-TIME BOX OFFICE HORROR CHAMP
OPENS OCTOBER 20
DISTRIBUTED BY: VIVA

OPENS OCT. 20! MTRCB RATING R-18
The Sin
R.S.PROMOTION PLC. PRESENTS AN ALADDIN HOUSE PRODUCTION


DIAL THE RIGHT NUMBER ON OCTOBER 20
THESE PEOPLE NEED YOUR HELP!
KIDNAPPED
KIDNAPPED
KIDNAPPED
WHAT YOU ARE HOLDING COULD SAVE THEM
CELLULAR
THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON IN THE WORLD IS IN YOUR HANDS.
KIM BASINGER CHRIS EVANS JASON STATHAM
NEW LINE CINEMA PRESENTS AN ELECTRIC ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTION "CELLULAR" KIM BASINGER CHRIS EVANS JASON STATHAM ERIC CHRISTIAN OLSEN WITH NOAH EMMERICH AND WILLIAM H. MACY
JOHN OTTMAN CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE ERIC SEARS, A.C.E. JAYMES HINKLE GARY CAPO DOUGLAS CURTIS TOBY EMMERICH RICHARD BRENNER KEITH GOLDBERG
DEAN DEVLIN LAUREN LLOYD LARRY COHEN CHRIS MORGAN DAVID R. ELLIS
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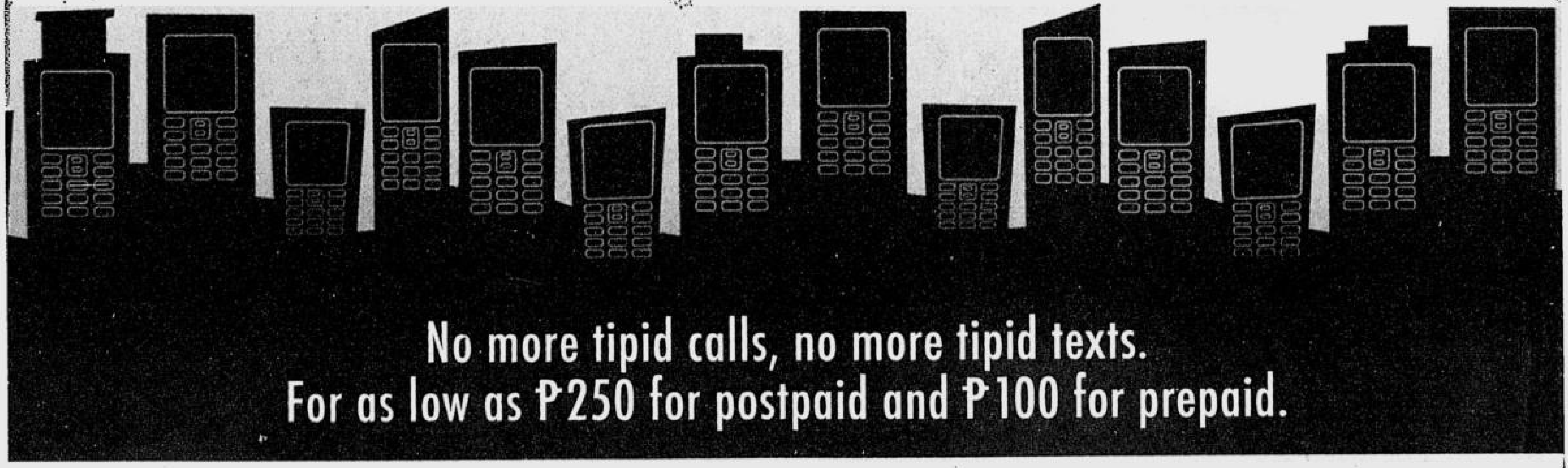

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SATURDAY*Special*

Mikael Salomon explores the war on terror in 'The Grid'

By Rito P. Asilo

LAST Wednesday, we got a call from director Mikael Salomon ("Band of Brothers") to chat about his critically acclaimed mini-series, "The Grid," starring Dylan McDermott ("The Practice"), Julianna Margulies ("E.R."), James Remar and Tom Skerritt, which starts its run tonight on Star Movies at 8.

We watched the mini-series with interest, because the opening shots included references to terrorist activities brewing in Cotabato in Mindanao.

Professional and personal

The six-part TV drama tracks the professional and personal lives of three American operatives, FBI's Max Canary (McDermott), CIA's Raza Michaels (Piter Marek) and the NSC's Maren Jackson (Margulies), and two British counter-terrorist agents, Emily Tuthill (Jemma Redgrave) and Derek Jennings (Bernard Hill), who join forces to prevent a planned attack and disrupt the terrorist network.

Salomon, twice nominated for an Oscar for his camerawork in James Cameron's "The Abyss" and Ron Howard's "Backdraft," keeps his timely tale moving at lightning speed with the help of brisk editing and straightforward storytelling, and aids his narrative with impressive photography that follows the series' characters from Washington to London, and from Egypt to Saudi Arabia.

Adding a human dimension to fast-paced action are personal stories that drive the characters in the movie: Canary's best friend, Tim McCann, was killed in the 9/11 World Trade Center tragedy. He has since moved in with Tim's wife and son as he deals with grief and guilt. On the other hand, Michaels is the CIA's top Mid-East analyst who is under constant scrutiny because he is a Muslim, etc.

Socially provocative

The fiftysomething LA-based Danish director, who first came to Hollywood 18 years ago, says he likes the idea of working on socially provocative themes. He says, "I worked with producer Tracey Alexander on 'A Glimpse of Hell,' a drama that investigates the explosion of a US Naval ship, and we had a great time doing it. 'The Grid' is not purely fiction like '24' or 'Alias.' I was doubly excited to do a show that was topical, something that was grounded in reality."

Didn't he worry about getting his details wrong? "We wanted to show different perspectives. We didn't want characters portrayed in the stereotypical heroic or shady molds. We had a reliable and efficient technical advisor (Larry Seaquist) and another expert on Islamic issues (Dr. Khaled Abou El Fadl), so there was no danger of trivializing the intention of the show. We got great numbers (ratings) when we premiered in the US more than two months ago. You really can't please everybody. Some critics, while raving about the show, called us 'pro-Bush,' but I consider myself a liberal."

How long did he shoot the series? Did he has a hand in the casting? He relates, "We shot in London and Morocco for 72 days. I wanted Dylan and Julianna, who were the first names attached to the project."

Classmate

Before we said our goodbyes, though, we chatted with Mikael about one of his actors on "The Grid," Barber Ali, who was our classmate and friend when we took classes at London's Actors Center two years ago. Apparently, the Danish director gets along well with his actors—he even knew that Barber was in Stephen Frears' "Dirty Pretty Things"! How nice.

We didn't want to say goodbye without some tidbits about the celebrities he's worked with. Is it true what they say about James Cameron's ("The Abyss") temper? He laughs, "Let's just say that it's true to a certain degree. James is uncompromising as a director, you don't sleep when you work with him. He gets the job done."

What about Steven Spielberg (the Richard Dreyfuss-Holly Hunter drama, "Always")? "Very imaginative." Ron Howard ("Backdraft" and "Far and Away")? "Wonderful guy." Nicole Kidman? "Very talented." And Tom Cruise? "Hard worker."

SALOMON. Wanted to do a show that was grounded in reality.

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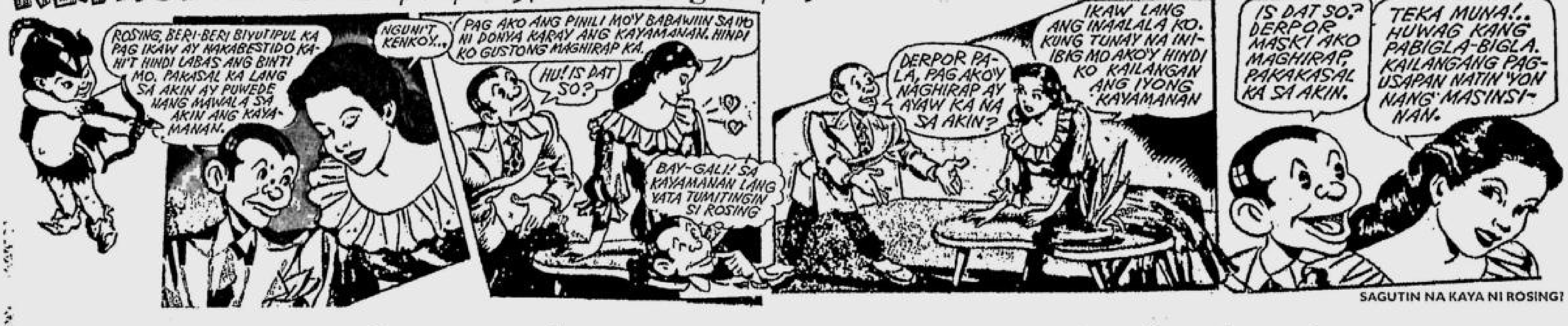
Liwayway 8.30.48 from the LOPEZ MUSEUM collection / Courtesy of KOMIKS CAFE / INQ EDITION 10.16.04


ROSING, BERI-BERI BIYUTIPUL KA PAG IKAW AY NAKABESTIDO KAHIT HINDI LABAS ANG BINTI MO. PAKASAL KA LANG SA AKIN AY PUWEDE NANG MAWALA SA AKIN ANG KAYAMANAN.
NGUNI'T KENKOY..
PAG AKO ANG PINILI MO'Y BABAWIIN SA IYO NI DONYA KARAY ANG KAYAMANAN. HINDI KO GUSTONG MAGHIRAP KA.
HU! IS DAT SO?
BAY-GALI! SA KAYAMANAN LANG YATA TUMITINGIN SI ROSING
DERPOR PALA, PAG AKO'Y NAGHIRAP AY AYAW KA NA SA AKIN?
IKAW LANG ANG INAALALA KO. KUNG TUNAY NA INIIBIG MO AKO'Y HINDI KO KAILANGAN ANG IYONG KAYAMANAN
IS DAT SO? DERPOR MASKI AKO MAGHIRAP, PAKAKASAL KA SA AKIN.
TEKA MUNA!.. HUWAG KANG PABIGLA-BIGLA. KAILANGANG PAGUSAPAN NATIN 'YON NANG MASINSINAN.

SAGUTIN NA KAYA NI ROSING?

Asia Pacific Film Institute opens its doors in January

By Nestor U. Torre

DIAZ-ABAYA. Esteemed filmmaker and teacher.

FILM and television have become so popular and pervasive, especially among the young, that many schools and institutes have been put up to train the hundreds of talents who want to work in the field of cinema.

Trouble is, some of those schools have academicians rather than practitioners for faculty, so the teaching is too abstract. Other schools offer courses that are too quickie to be really useful, turning out half-baked talents who think they knew more than they do.

The ideal would be a school that teaches cinema from both its theoretical and practical aspects, with a faculty of active film artists and craftsmen who are also rooted in the more formal aspects of film culture.

Clear idea

Even better, the school should provide training in all of the major film arts and crafts, so that students will get a clear idea of how they must work in coordination and collaboration, to come up with an integral motion picture production.

And, best of all, the institute should have pre-production, production and post-production facilities and services that will be made available for students' use, so that their learning is hands-on and attuned to professional standards.

Well, film buffs can dream, can't they?

—The good news is, starting January 2005, that cinematic "dream" is coming true. Directors Marilou Diaz-Abaya and Ben Yalung are launching the Asia Pacific Film Institute at the CineColor Studios at the corner of Edsa and Ortigas ave.

Basic Program

The Institute will start with a Basic Program from Jan. 10 to April 8. From April 11 to 15, a Producers Course will be offered for prospective movie financiers.

From April 18 to May 13, Summer Workshops will be taught in Acting, Music, Documentary and Digital Production. And, from Aug. 15 to Nov. 11, an Advanced Program will be offered.

Aside from the topnotch credentials of Diaz-Abaya and other teachers, the new institute has distinguished itself by being the only film school anywhere that offers students the use of professional 35mm color movie production, laboratory and other post-production facilities and services.

It's significant that the school has been named the Asia Pacific Film Institute, because it indicates that the school is meant not only for Filipino film students, but also for others in the region.

The tuition fee is substantial, but the topnotch faculty, equipment and facilities available to students more than mitigate and rationalize the financial investment involved.

Details

Since the Basic Course is the first to be launched, details on how it will proceed have been provided: Separate weekdays have been assigned to Still Photography, Motion Picture Language, Screenwriting, and Production.

On Fridays, there will be different Industry Seminars on topics like Overview of Motion Picture Industries, Cinematography, Editing, Sound, Production Design, Acting, Music, Documentary, Advertising, Special Effects and Animation, Music Video and Digital Production.

Clearly, the Asia Pacific Film Institute means business. Talents *really* serious about learning the craft and art of filmmaking for a productive, challenging and fulfilling lifetime career in the field are invited to call APFI at (017) 893-2392.

Carlo Aquino wants to become a pianist

By Remy Umerez

AQUINO. In "reunion" movie with Vilma Santos.

THE LAST quarter of 2004 marks an interesting phase in the career of young actor Carlo Aquino. He ends the year with a reunion movie with Vilma Santos and Christopher de Leon, Regal's Metro Manila Filmfest entry, "Mano Po 3."

Carlo first worked with the respected actress in "Bata, Bata, Paano Ka Ginawa," where he played one of her sons. He considers that role a defining moment in his career as an actor.

*"Napakalaking tulong ang pagmo-*motivate *na ginawa niya.* I was very lucky *na inalalayan niya ako nang husto,"* he recalls with deep appreciation.

Chinoys

"Mano Po 3" is the last in Regal's series of movies about the experiences of Chinese-Filipinos or Chinoys. It tells the story of Lilia Chiong Yang (Vilma Santos), who runs into her first love, Michael Lim (Christopher de Leon) now a widower, and their affair affects every aspect of their lives. Carlo Aquino plays the young Michael.

Alternative band

Carlo says he didn't miss acting, because he has been kept busy by his studies (he is taking up Business Management). He also became a member of the alternative band, Theory, where he is the lead vocalist and guitarist.

Carlo loves music just as much as acting. Next year, he hopes to enroll at the UST College of Music and take up piano. The intense playing of Maksim has contributed to Carlo's decision to become a pianist.

Carlo's dream of becoming a pianist refuses to die. Now, he has decided that, the earlier he does something about it, the better. "It would be harder if my fingers harden and refuse to cooperate. And I want a full course, not just learning from a tutor," he adds.

Bob Dylan opens up . . . a little

DYLAN. Uncomfortable with the intrusiveness that came with celebrity.

NEW YORK—Bob Dylan's much anticipated autobiography offers a rare, first-hand insight into the reclusive singer's life, the genesis of his career, and his struggle with celebrity.

However, any fan seeking a sensational tell-all confessional in the style of most rock music memoirs will be sorely disappointed.

"Chronicles: Volume One" wanders far from the normal autobiographical path, eschewing any chronological structure and providing instead snatches of a life, filled with anecdotes about anyone from the boxer Joe Dempsey to U2 frontman Bono.

The non-indexed book is perhaps most notable for what it leaves out.

Shocking switch

There is nothing of his shocking switch from acoustic to electric sound, his conversion to Christianity, or the breakdown of his marriage to Sara Lowndes, which spawned the highly acclaimed 1975 album, "Blood on the Tracks." His near-fatal motorbike crash in 1966 gets only the most cursory mention.

"I had been in a motorcycle accident and I'd been hurt, but I recovered," he writes.

The 293-page book is split into five chapters, three dealing with his early adult days in Minnesota and New York City, and two with the making of two of his lesser-known albums: "New Morning" (1970) and "Oh Mercy" (1989).

The memoirs offer an atmospheric portrait of the Greenwich Village scene of the 1960s, and the first rumblings of the social and political upheavals to come.

Riding the changes

"America was changing. I had a feeling of destiny, and I was riding the changes," Dylan says, describing the germination of the counter-cultural persona that would define much of his career.

"It wasn't that I was anti-popular culture or anything. I had no ambition to stir things up. I just thought of mainstream culture as lame as hell and a big trick."

Apart from music, the other subject that generates the most passionate passages in the book concern Dylan's discomfort with the intrusiveness that came with celebrity, and attempts to pigeonhole him as the voice of a generation.

Honorary degree

At one point, he recalls being awarded an honorary degree by Princeton University and being introduced to the student body as "the disturbed conscience of Young America." "Oh Sweet Jesus! It was like a jolt! The 'disturbed conscience of Young America.' I couldn't believe it. I was so mad I wanted to bite myself!"

The annoyance spills into fury when he recalls how hordes of fans would make the pilgrimage to his family home in Woodstock.

"Roadmaps to our homestead must have been posted in all fifty states for gangs of dropouts and druggies.

Celebrity crops up again in a Guinness-lubricated conversation in the late 1980s with Bono, whom Dylan describes as having "the soul of an ancient poet." "We talked about fame, and we both agreed that the funny thing about fame is that nobody believes it's you."

Folk singer

Of his two-year relationship with the folk singer Joan Baez, there are no details, apart from his stunned reaction to seeing her perform on a CBS television broadcast before they had ever met.

"I couldn't stop looking at her, I didn't want to blink. She was wicked looking—shiny black hair that hung down over the curve of slender hips, drooping lashes, partly raised. The sight of her made me high." One figure who does loom large is folk singer Woody Guthrie, whose music he credits with transforming his own singing and songwriting style.

Dylan, who spent three years punching out the book on a manual typewriter, acknowledged in an interview with Newsweek that his approach to writing it had been unconventional.

An audio version of the book is being brought out, read by Sean Penn. *AFP*

Cirque du Soleil keeps evolving

LAS VEGAS—After a decade, Cirque du Soleil has become an institution in the gambling capital, but it never stops evolving.

With three shows going strong and a fourth in the works, there's no slowing the spectacle that fuses classic circus performances, majestic lighting, and a surreal atmosphere with dance, humor and audience participation.

"For 90 minutes we hope to take them to a fantasy world, our world," says performer Craig Paul Smith of England, who plays the Principal Comet in one of the shows, called "O." He has been with that show since it opened in 1998 at the Bellagio Hotel and Casino.

Founder

Cirque began in 1982 in the town of Baie-Saint-Paul in Quebec, Canada, where founder and now CEO Guy Laliberte cobbled together a small band of talented street entertainers for a festival. Two years later, Cirque du Soleil was born and began touring. The troupe, an instant hit in Las Vegas, decided to create a permanent show here.

Acrobats

"Mystere," the original Cirque show on the Vegas Strip, opened Christmas Day 1993 at the Treasure Island Hotel and Casino. It features endearing yet outlandish characters that intertwine with acrobats, trapeze artists and gymnasts to take the audience on a mystical journey.

The variety of languages spoken by the approximately 750 people from 55 countries who perform in the shows may give the impression of confusion backstage, but the company offers English classes so everyone can communicate.

"It really is like a family," said Pien Bowler, a Cirque spokeswoman, "all these people from all over the world thrown into this place called Vegas." Bowler, who is from the Netherlands, is married to one of "Mystere's" performers, Paul Bowler of England. The couple met here.

Following the success of "Mystere," Cirque du Soleil opened "O," a show performed entirely in, on or above water. Its set is reminiscent of a Salvador Dali painting, ever changing to accommodate a series of unexpected performances.

Division

In 2003, the adults-only "Zumanity" opened at New York-New York Hotel and Casino. It is the first show from Another Side of Cirque du Soleil, a division of Cirque.

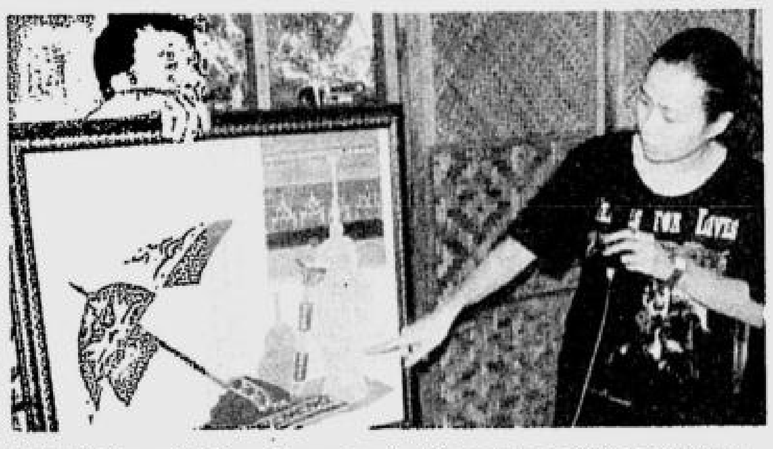
Naughtier

"With 'Zumanity' we're bending the rules a little bit. It's a naughtier, sexier show," said publicist Callie de Quevedo.

The program leads its audience on an intimate and erotic adventure through nearly every incarnation of love and sensuality, finally celebrating everlasting love.

A fourth show is to open this fall at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino. Its theme has yet to be revealed.

The new show is likely to be the most expensive venture yet for Cirque du Soleil, with theater and production costs predicted considerably higher than those of "O"—a $90 million startup. *AP*


NIZA Abbas, with Tony Cervantes (left), explains painting depicting Lanao's Maranao culture.

Celebrating being Filipino at The Pen

THE 25TH staging of "Celebrating Being Filipino: A Kaleidoscope of Filipino Culture and Enterprise" will be held from Oct. 22 to 28 at The Peninsula Manila Hotel gallery.

Opening ceremonies are slated on Oct. 21, 6 p.m. with Dr. Elenita Binay presiding.

The organizers, the City of Makati through its City Museum and Cultural Affairs Office, The Peninsula Manila, and Island Finds Trading and Consultancy, have been a continuing partnership since 1978.

This year's participants will showcase the arts and crafts of different Philippine regions and communities with individual artists' renditions.

Community productivity

The use of local resources and agricultural commodities to enhance community productivity will be highlighted.

The Museo ng Makati art works and the city's social services and livelihood projects are complemented by Barangays Bel-Air and Dasmariñas.

Makati-based Rotary International clubs from District 3830 present their painters: past presidents Rhoderick Santos, Sue Sta. Maria, Lita Wells; and Rotary Anns Nanet Segovia, Grace Chong, and Beth Montecillo, also with her limited edition bags.

Major indigenous communities' arts and crafts from the Cordillera and Mindanao tribes with the Muslims, are provided marketing assistance by Island Finds Trading and Consultancy, Corporate Community Relations Consultancy Ltd. Co., exporters OLM Treasures and Golden Shell awardee Narda's, and the Maranao Jewellers Association.

Taosug sculptor

Taosug sculptor Juan Sajid and his brother, painter Jose Mari Imao, are joined by Lanao del Sur painters, Jam Tamano Lucman and Niza Abbas, members of the Maranao sultanate, in an exposition of Muslim art interpretations.

The hopes and needs of newly-energized barangays, numbering some 1,208 in remote rural areas, agrarian reform communities, Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR) are portrayed by Mirant Philippines, Alliance for Mindanao Off-Grid Renewable Energy (AMORE) of Winrock Int'l and US-AID, and the Solar Power Technology Program (SPOTS) of Spain and the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

Livelihood opportunities

Special interest groups providing members with livelihood opportunities are the Jesuit Prison Service Foundation with its Pagasa sa

CELEBRATING/ A3-3

Celebrating being Filipino at The Pen

From page A3-2

Paglaya-Kandila, Tahanan Walang Hagdan, the Batis Center for Women, and the De La Salle H.S. Bros. of '58.

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) participates with Technology Application and Promotion Institute (TAPI) in spurring improved production systems, introducing new and adaptable technologies, and funding programs. Complementing DOST is the small-medium enterprises' funding offered by the Bank of the Philippine Islands.

Rural areas

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), with its Cottage and Industry Technology Center (CITC) in Marikina, will feature its work in the countryside's rural areas and urban poor communities.

Lending their institutional support, apart from the participating institutions in the exhibit-sale proper, are: Rotary International, Rotary Club of Makati Salcedo and its Foundation, the Fellows of The Asia Foundation; Int'l Association of Hubert H. Humphrey Fellows-Philippines; and the Asian Institute of Management MBM '71.

Cottage Industry and Technology Center (CITC) will showcase its adaptive technologies primarily for the rural areas through floor loom weaving, jewelry making, bamboo craft, and other skills' training programs for urban areas.

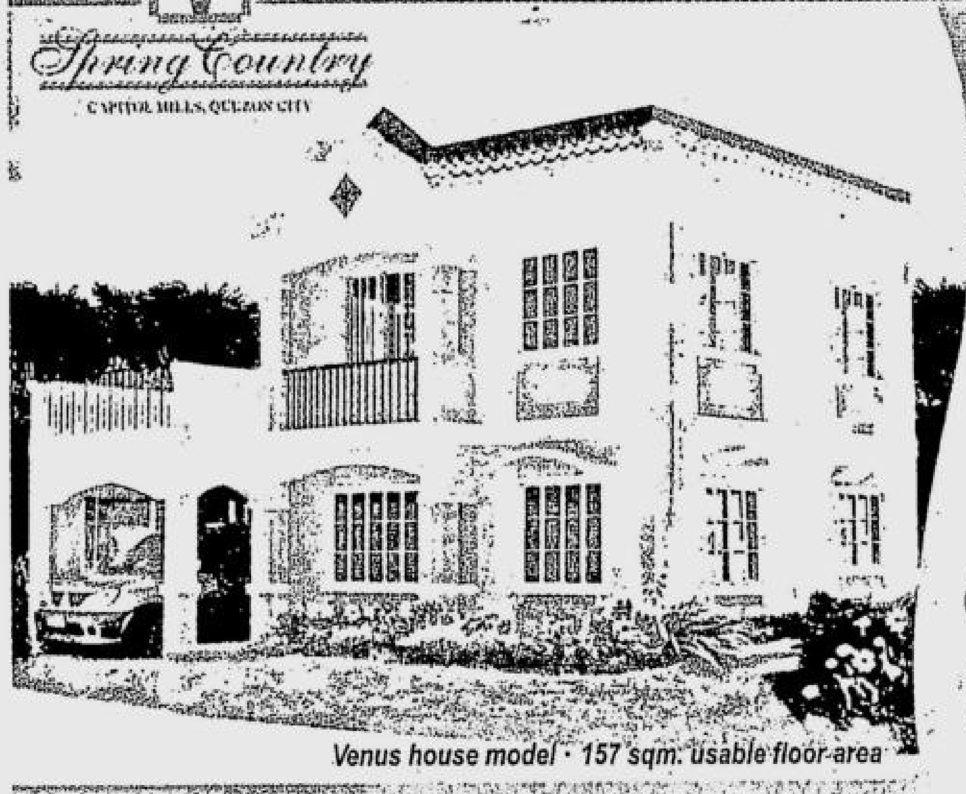
Highlight

The Maranaos of the dominant Muslim population of Lanao del Sur will highlight their culture with crafts demonstrations like pearl beading, indigenous musical instruments with their festive dances, and teach visitors the multiple uses of their malong, a backstrap loom-woven tubular skirt used by both men and women.

Indigenous tribal craftsmen from the Cordilleras will do wood carving and basketry. The weavers of Narda's will explain the intricacies of *ikat* or tie dyeing in evolving the modern color rendition of her woven fabrics and tapestries.

Admission is free and open to the public from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The Museo ng Makati will provide further information through 896-0277 and 896-2464, or contact Tony Cervantes of Island Finds at 374-3549.



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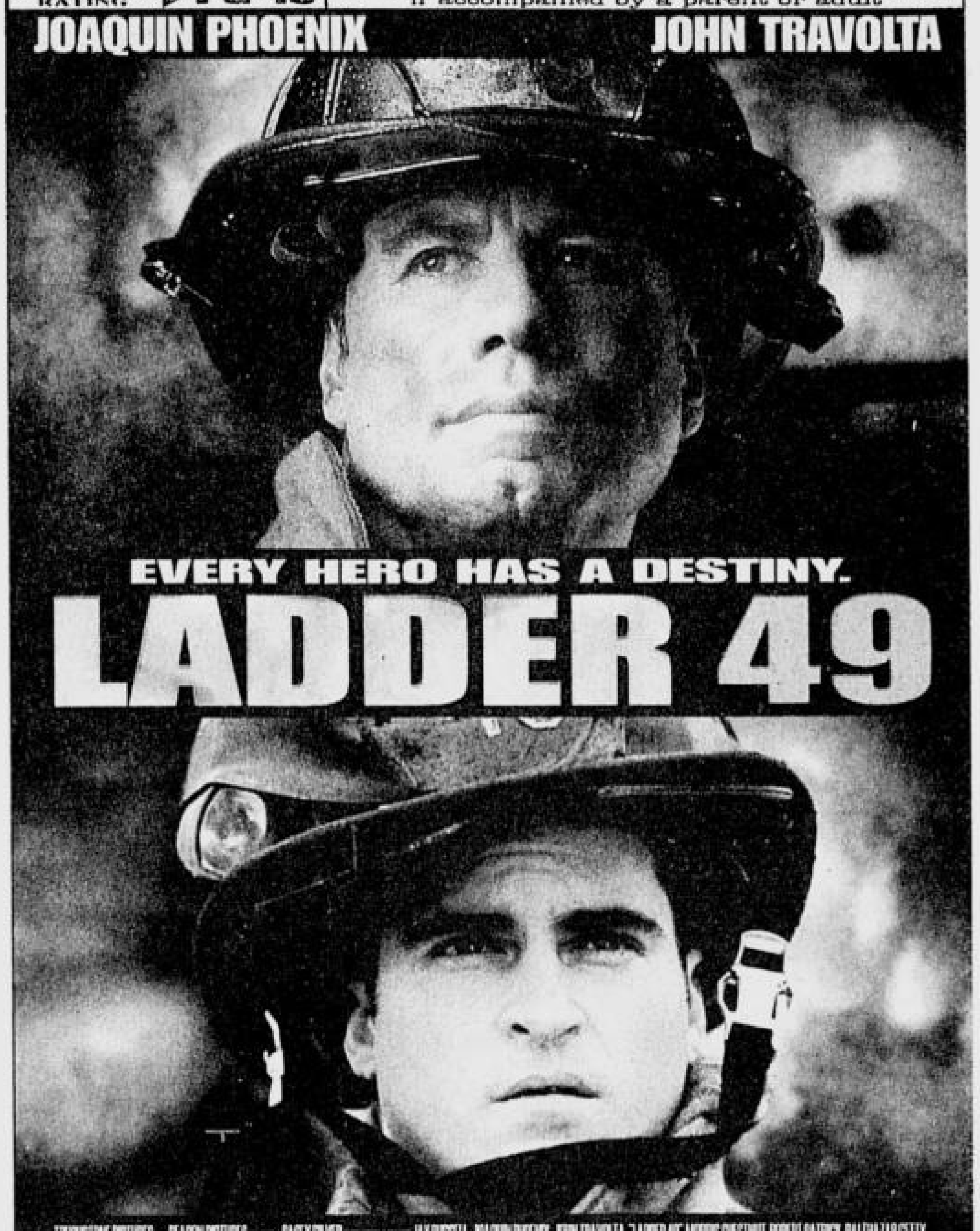

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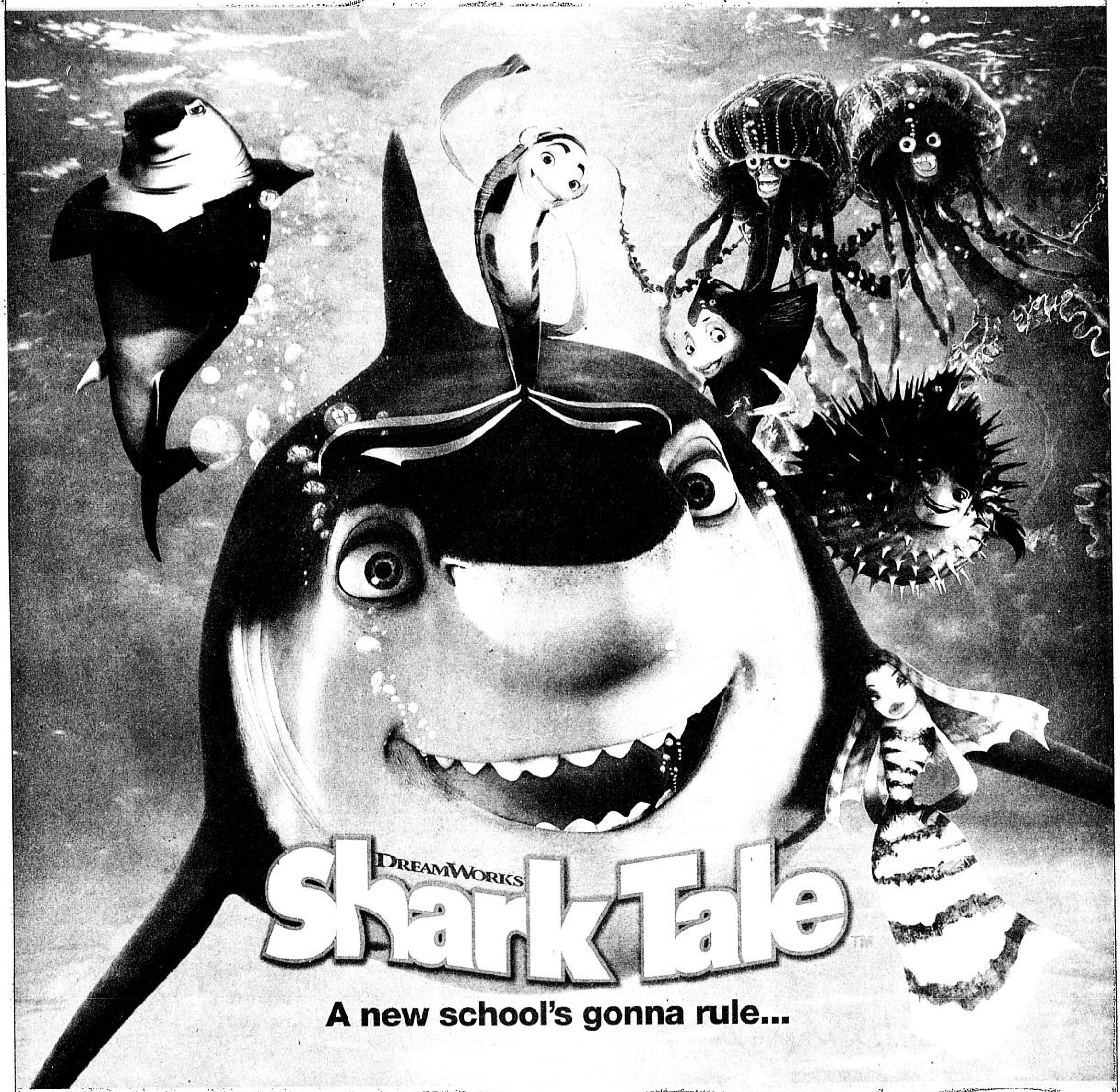

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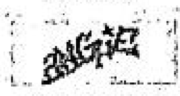
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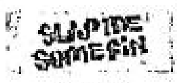
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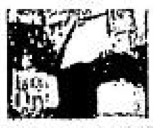
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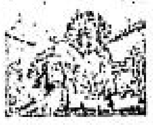
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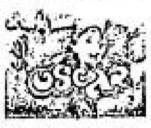
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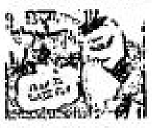
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SATURDAY *Special*

RIO DIAZ AND CHRISTOPHER REEVE

Shared legacy of hope and courage

DIAZ. Luminous light in the penumbra of imminent death.

By Nestor U. Torre

RIO Diaz and Christopher Reeve didn't know each other, but their recent passing within days of each other, and the lives of hope and courage they led despite their respective ailments, have linked them in a shared legacy that will live on, and continue to inspire many people in the future.

Rio's valiant fight against colon cancer moved not only her fans but the public in general. It wasn't just Rio's determination that affected them, but also her absolute lack of self-pity and her trusting and even happy outlook despite the severity of her illness.

Her sterling example made many people realize that their own problems shouldn't defeat them—and that, like Rio, they should keep fighting to surmount their difficulties, and always keep trusting in God's will.

Lesser woes

The point was made even more forcefully because it quickly became clear that many people's problems paled in comparison to Rio's painful and life-threatening ailment. If she could rise from such depths, others should be able to triumph over their lesser woes, as well.

Of course, there were those who cynically opined that Rio had a better chance of survival than most, because her husband was very wealthy. After more low blows, however, Rio's consistently courageous stand won over even the cynics and pessimists.

So, when Rio finally passed away recently, the country responded not just with grief but also with deep appreciation for the inspiration she had provided. Veritably, she shone as a luminous light in the penumbra of imminent death. She is loved, and will not be forgotten.

Plum role

For his part, Christopher Reeve literally flew high in his stellar career, when he played the plum role of Superman on the big screen. That's why his fall from a horse and his consequent total paralyzation were a particularly shocking and heartrending denouement for his fans.

Some of them expected Reeve to quietly accept his fate and fade away. But, they didn't bank on his own deep reserves of hope and courage. In addition, he was selfless, and dynamically and creatively used his dire predicament to focus the world's attention on the plight of quadriplegics like him—and what could be done to help them.

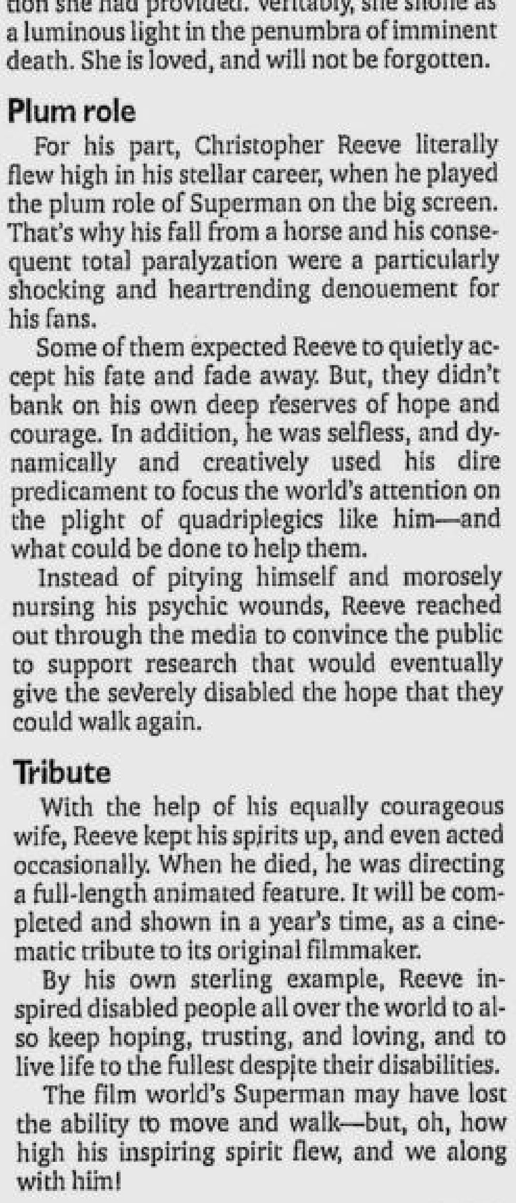
Instead of pitying himself and morosely nursing his psychic wounds, Reeve reached out through the media to convince the public to support research that would eventually give the severely disabled the hope that they could walk again.

Tribute

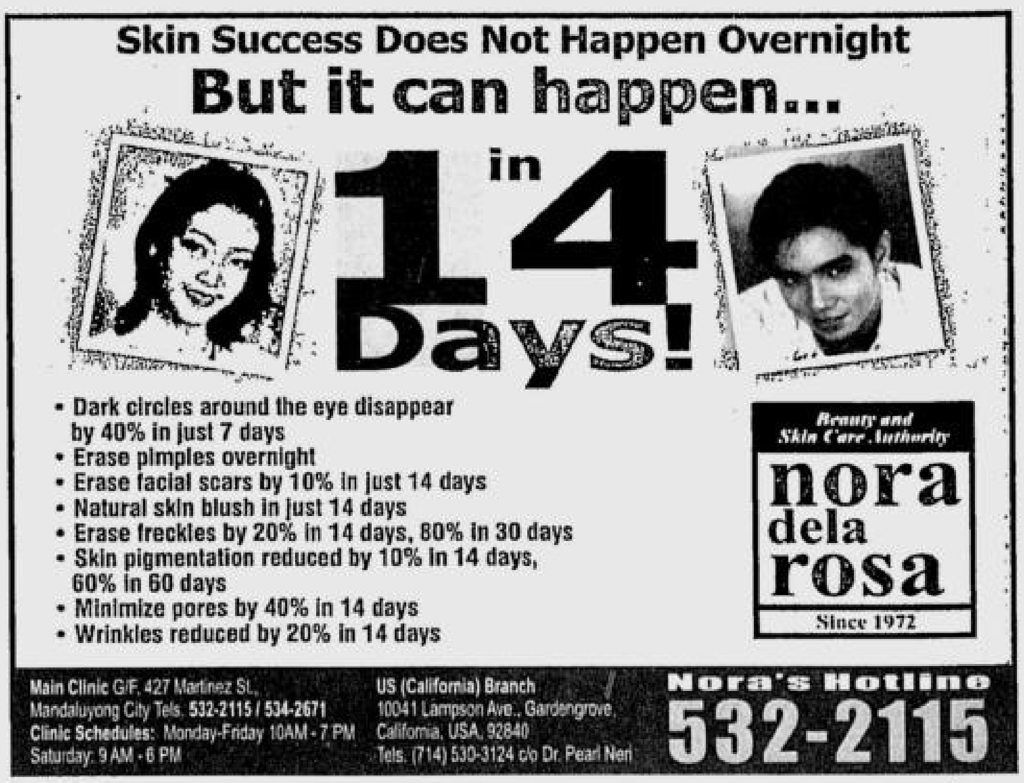
With the help of his equally courageous wife, Reeve kept his spirits up, and even acted occasionally. When he died, he was directing a full-length animated feature. It will be completed and shown in a year's time, as a cinematic tribute to its original filmmaker.

By his own sterling example, Reeve inspired disabled people all over the world to also keep hoping, trusting, and loving, and to live life to the fullest despite their disabilities.

The film world's Superman may have lost the ability to move and walk—but, oh, how high his inspiring spirit flew, and we along with him!



REEVE. Used his dire predicament to focus the world's attention on the plight of disabled people like him.



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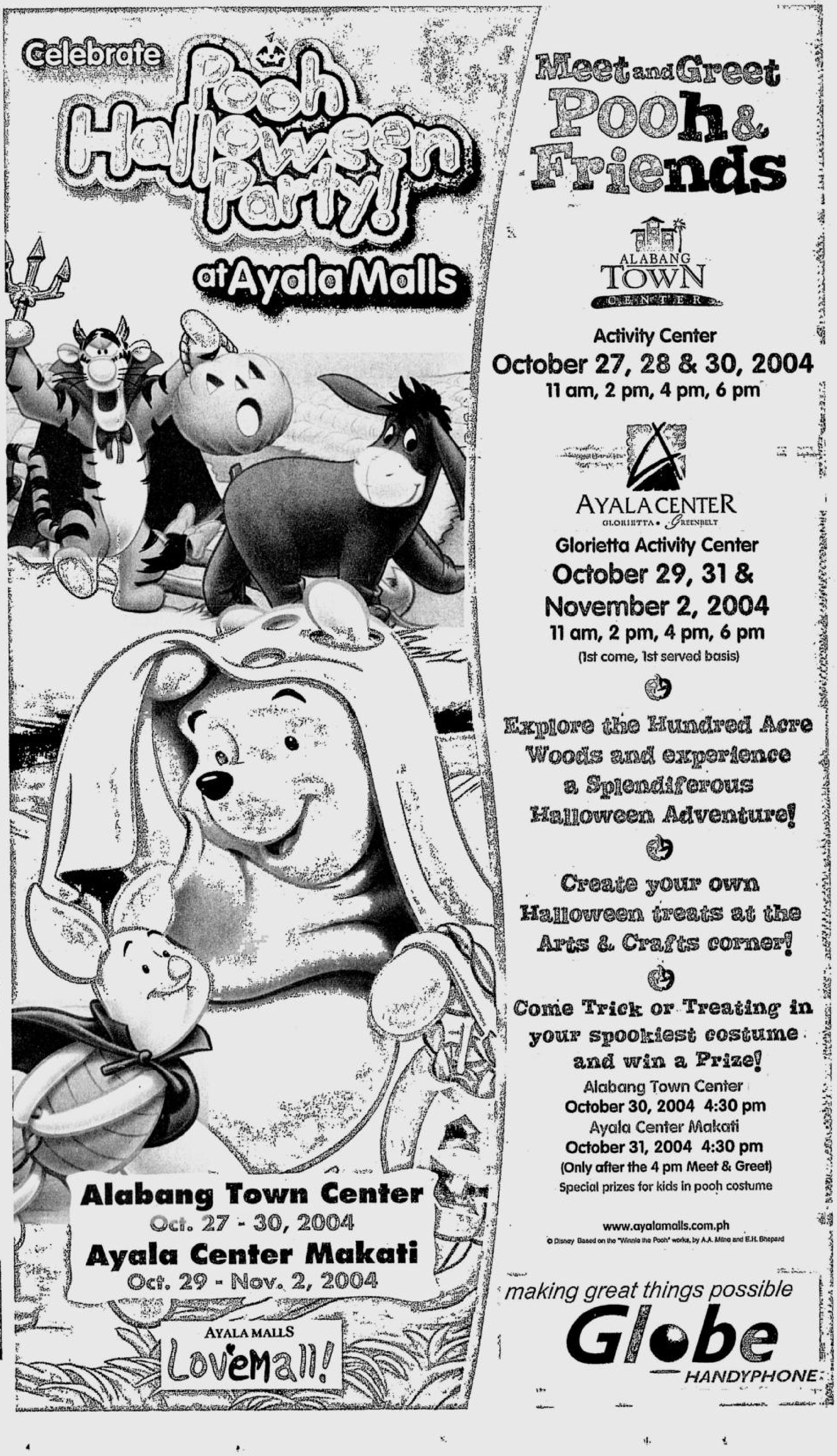

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Grace Kelly, one of a regal kind

By Nestor U. Torre

KELLY. From Hollywood "royalty" to real-life Princess of Monaco.

NORMIE Alabado of Virlanie Foundation writes: "I hear that Princess Caroline of Monaco will be visiting the Philippines late this month. I'm a big fan of her mother, the late Princess Grace. Please write about her, including the memorable movies she starred in, like 'High Society,' 'To Catch a Thief,' 'The Swan' and 'The Country Girl.'"

Happy to oblige!:

Though not lacking in fairy tale elements (after all, she *did* marry a prince), Grace Kelly's life is far from being a "from rags to riches" story. She was born into a wealthy Philadelphia family; her father was an industrialist.

When she told him that she wanted to become an actress, his reaction was decidedly chilly. So, she opted to become a model instead. In time, however, her love for acting reasserted itself, and she had her start performing on TV, and then on Broadway (in "The Father," opposite Raymond Massey).

Contract

It was only a matter of time before the cool, blonde beauty caught the eye of a film producer, and she was offered a contract. Her first movie was "14 Hours" (1951).

Grace's best performances were in films directed by Alfred Hitchcock, who had a preference for sophisticated blondes who were "sultry" deep inside. That provocative and enticing combination was highlighted in the actress' performances in Hitchcock's "Rear Window," "To Catch a Thief" and "Dial M for Murder."

Off-camera, Grace was more romantically venturesome than her cool screen persona. She had a well-publicized affair with designer Oleg Cassini, and some Hollywood reports also linked her with some of her leading men.

How was Grace Kelly as an actress? At her best, she won an Oscar for Best Actress for her role in "The Country Girl," where she deglamorized herself to play the wife of an alcoholic singer (Bing Crosby) on the comeback trail.

Other portrayals

Her other portrayals were less dramatically striking—but, after only 11 movies, Grace had become one of the most popular leading ladies in Hollywood.

In 1955, her life took a radically different turn when she met Prince Rainier of Monaco at the Cannes Film Festival. Before Hollywood knew it, its "reigning" screen beauty became "real" royalty—Princess Grace of Monaco.

Grace played her new role to the hilt, and the prince's subjects quickly came to love her.

They appreciated the good example she set when she gave up her career for her family and her husband's principality, and lauded her many charitable and fundraising involvements.

Blandishments

In 1962, Princess Grace was tempted to return to movie acting, but even the persuasive Hitchcock's blandishments couldn't effect a comeback (she was being tapped to play the title role in "Marnie," which Tippi Hedren later portrayed).

In September 1982, Princess Grace died in a car crash. Her death was mourned not just by her husband's subjects, but also by many film fans all over the world.

Last year, we went on a pilgrimage tour of Europe, and Monaco was one of our stops.

We made it a point to visit the church where Princess Grace is entombed, and were glad to see that, more than 20 years after her death, her tomb was surrounded by flowers and candles placed there by her loyal followers, who still remember and cherish Grace Kelly for what she was—and what she became.

WINANS. Big musical shoes to fill.

'Hurt No More' has grit and grime

By Noelani Torre

MARIO Winans is a nice guy—a fact that reverberates throughout his hour-long album, "Hurt No More." Sure, there's a "Parental Advisory for Explicit Content" warning, as well as associations with Bad Boy and P. Diddy, but all that doesn't matter when Winans starts singing "I Don't Wanna Know" to an unfaithful girlfriend.

The entire refrain to this song (the album's smash hit) goes: "I don't wanna know if you're playing me/ keep it on the low/ 'cause my heart can't take it anymore/ And if you're creeping, please don't let it show."

Sentiments

Now, these aren't sentiments one would expect to hear from a man wronged, especially when he keeps company with the likes of Puffy and Black Rob. But then again, this is R&B. The song samples Enya's "Boadicea," and Winan's is, as we said, a nice, sensitive guy.

It gets a tad much at times. One starts to think that this guy is no more than a sap—but, thankfully, he leads us away from this line of thought by adding grit and grime to his oh-so-smooth works.

Before anything else, though, we're sure most of you are wondering just who in the world is Mario Winans. If you're a gospel music fan, then you can pretty much guess who he is—or rather, where he comes from.

Mario is a scion of gospel music's first family—the Winans—and his mother is no other than renowned songstress Vickie Winans.

He's got big shoes to fill, but Mario's chosen to go at it via another, non-gospel route. He does acknowledge, however, that his background has proven to be useful. "Growing up in a gospel family was very, very good," he says in an interview.

"I was exposed to musical things at an early age, and it helped me just knowing how things are supposed to be organized."

Skills

Winans is better known for his producing skills. He's made significant contributions to songs by members of his family as well as to big-name artists like Mary J. Blige, Whitney Houston, R. Kelly, Jennifer Lopez, Brian McKnight, The Notorious B.I.G., P.Diddy, and 702. One of the five BMI Urban Music awards he won last year was for Producer of the Year, an award which he also won in 2002.

He does his own production work for "Hurt No More," and he also took care of the instrumentation (keyboards and drums). The result is a classy, well-knit, chilled-out album that wraps around one's aural nerves like the smoothest of silk.

Sincere

The emotional content sounds sincere enough, though we feel that it could have been more intense. This can't quite happen, though, because Winans just doesn't have the vocal talent to back it up. He can sing well, but not as good as, say, the other members of his family.

Still, this is by and large a decent, well-made record, and it's perfect for unwinding after a hard day—or a grueling finals week.

Two new John Lennon CDs to be released

LENNON. Seven of the tracks in his compilation will be available for the first time.

NEW YORK—John Lennon will have two new compact discs out this fall.

Capitol Records announced it was releasing a 17-song disc, "Acoustic," which collects some of the quieter post-Beatles work, including "Working Class Hero," "Watching the Wheels" and "Dear Yoko," by Lennon, who was murdered in 1980.

Seven of the tracks will be available for the first time. An acoustic version of the harrowing "Cold Turkey," a live take on "Imagine" and a non-sweetened "Real Love" are part of the package.

1975 album

Capitol is also repackaging Lennon's 1975 album, "Rock 'n' Roll," his homage to the music of his youth. They include four bonus tracks: "To Know Her Is to Love Her," "Angel Baby," "Since My Baby Left Me" and "Just Because."

Lennon's widow, Yoko Ono, supervised the projects, which will be issued Nov. 2. *AP*

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM OCT. 16 - OCT. 22

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ALVAREZ, SEÑA, DELA TORRE. Their careers were given an early boost by Gines Tan's "Magsimula Ka."

Musicals are close to Filipino theater buffs' hearts

By Nestor U. Torre

CULTURAL Center of the Philippines officials led by president Nes Jardin, VP and artistic director Nanding Josef and associate artistic director Chris Millado should be congratulated for conceptualizing the musical theater festival that the CCP is holding next month.

It's a great choice of theme and scope, because. music and theater are enormously appealing and meaningful to Filipinos. We therefore urge all theater buffs to make it a point to patronize the musicals that will be staged as part of the festival's offerings. For performance schedules call 832-1125 local 1806, or emai www.culturalcenter.gov.ph/ntf.

Weekends

For our part, we fell in love with musicals when we were still very young. Most weekends, our mother would take us to the Escolta in Manila, to enjoy the musical films regularly screened at a theater there.

When we studied in the States and in England, we thrilled to the stage musicals showing on Broadway and on London's West End. It was there that we sensed the beauty, excitement, emotive power and larger-than-life quality that separated the great musicals from the also-rans.

Back in Manila, we resumed our acting career. We found that the musical fad had also reached Philippine shores, and we were cast in a number of productions, both "imported" and local—"Oliver!," "Guys and Dolls," "Promises, Promises," etc.

Instructively enough, when we started our directing career, it was with a musical production, "Jesus Christ Superstar in Filipino," with Rico J. Puno and Celeste Legaspi topbilling.

Theme

The "in Filipino" part turned out to be a theme for our subsequent body of work, which has tried to utilize the American theater form of the musical to serve distinctly Filipino stories, characters and concerns.

This came to a clear focus when we were tapped to direct Gines Tan's "Magsimula Ka" for the CCP's Bulwagang Gantimpala. Gines' songs were great, and the new musical went on to become a seminal hit, with a then unheard off 120 performances to its name.

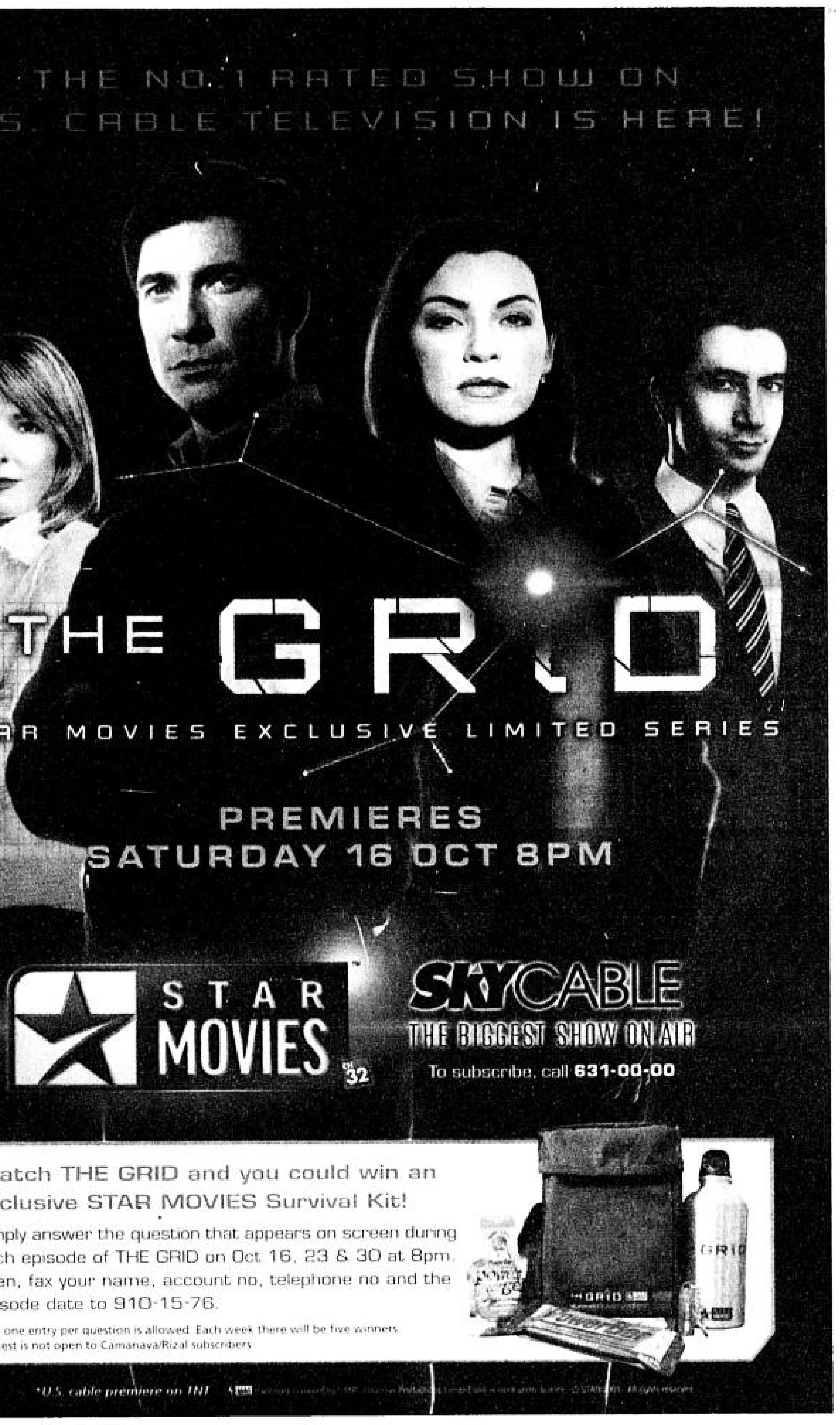
It was also designed to be a major showcase for then relatively unknown talents like Isay Alvarez, Robert Seña, Jograd delá Torre, Tricia Amper, Gigi Posadas, Bobby Martino and Jonjon Briones, who went on to make names for themselves as performers, both here and abroad.

Laurels

The production's laurels were capped by some reviewers' description of "Magsimula Ka" as "the first Filipino musical that works." The accolades motivated us to work even harder, and all those repeat performances convinced us that musicals are, indeed, close to the hearts of the Filipino theater audience.

Informed and heartened by these insights, we went on to write and direct other original Filipino musicals that Gines Tan set to music, and which Ryan Cayabyab in turn arranged—"Mga Anghel sa Lupa," "Awit ni Kadugnung" and "Ang Bagong Bituin." We also worked with Chic Fortich on the Visayan musical, "Ay, Kasing-Kasing Ko."

And then came "Katy!" *(To be concluded)*



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SATURDAY *Special*

Mushy Korean soaps lapped up by Asian viewers

SEOUL—Yoko Otani is not very interested in visiting South Korea's imposing Joseon Dynasty palaces.

Nor is shopping for fake handbags in Seoul's sprawling markets particularly high on the 45-year-old Japanese receptionist's agenda on her four-day trip to South Korea.

Otani and her friend, Takako Ishida, have come to visit locations linked to the hit South Korean TV drama "Winter Sonata," on a trip organized by a Japanese travel company.

From Taiwan to Thailand, South Korean television soap operas and dramas are proving an enormous hit across Asia.

JAPANESE fan poses next to giant photo of Seoul's TV drama superstar.

REUTERS

Heartthrob

"He's not like Japanese men," chuckled Otani, referring to the bespectacled Bae Yong-joon, costar of "Winter Sonata," who has become a heartthrob for many across Asia.

Otani was enjoying a meal of Korean barbecued beef at a restaurant in a posh part of Seoul that is sometimes frequented by Bae, who is known in Japan as "Yong-sama," a deferential tag often reserved for royalty.

The formula for dramas such as "Winter Sonata" is a bittersweet love story between clean-cut, good-looking actors against a backdrop of pretty countryside with melancholy music providing the soundtrack.

Traditional Asian values such as respect for parents run through the plots and there is generally barely a whiff of sex despite the sometimes turbulent love triangles that emerge in the plots.

"I like it because it's a pure love story," said Chieko Suhiro, whose daughter, Yuka, was posing next to a signed photo of 32-year-old Bae hanging in the Seoul restaurant, called Mr Park's House.

The success of the dramas has led to a surge in visitors to South Korea, particularly from Japan.

Visitors

About 300,000 people were expected to join soap tours to South Korea this year, up 70,000 from last year, said Lee Ga-young at the Korea National Tourism Organization said. About a third of the visitors are expected to be from Japan.

Na Myung-sook, manager of Mr Park's House, has no complaints.

She gets up to 100 Japanese on weekend nights hoping to catch a glimpse of their idol, Bae, whose favorite meals were beef bone soup and a raw Korean beef dish, Na said.

The surge in interest in Korean culture started in the late 1990s, led by the popularity of Korean actor-turned-pop star Ahn Jae-wook in China and the release of movies such as "Swiri" and "Joint Security Area." The success of "Winter Sonata," released in Korea in early 2002, and other such dramas has sustained the buzz.

Keen to jump on the bandwagon, a "Korean Entertainment Hall of Fame" was recently opened in the basement of the national tourism office in Seoul, complete with a collection of cardboard figures and hand-prints of some Korean pop stars and actors.

Across the region, things Korean are in.

After a long love affair with all things Japanese, Singaporeans have their eye on Korea. Several Korean dramas have recently been launched on primetime television.

Images

Young Singaporeans have been snatching up merchandise emblazoned with images of Korean stars and the city-state is seeing its own version of Japan's "Yong-sama" craze.

"I never paid attention to Korean pop culture until I watched 'Winter Sonata.' From there, I started to look out for Korean music and actors," said Wong Kah Wai, a 26-year-old teacher.

In Thailand, Korean soaps are dubbed into Thai and run in prime slots.

Tiger Woods had even tried to arrange a meeting with Korean actor Song Seung-heon, who stars in "Autumn in My Heart," on behalf of his Thai mother.

Woods is due to visit South Korea and Japan later in the year and his mother is apparently a big fan of Song's.

Popularity

Hirata Yukie, a PhD student in sociology at Seoul's Yonsei University, says the popularity of Korean soap operas in Japan is partly the result of a shared geography and cultural affinity.

The implications for the neighbours' relations, sour for decades because of Japan's harsh rule over the peninsula for much of the first half of the 20th century, can only be positive, she says.

"It will be an opportunity for each to know their cultures better." The implications for travel and entertainment companies are rosy.

Tours organized by travel firms such as Japan Travel Bureau to visit the sites of "Winter Sonata" can cost over 100,000 yen ($900) in high season for a three- to four-day tour. *Reuters*

He taught James Bond everything he knows

By Nestor U. Torre

BEFORE James Bond got his license to kill—and demolish records at the box office—the toast of fictive skulduggery was Sherlock Holmes, the clever creation of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle who fired the public's imagination with his crime-solving acumen.

BASIL Rathbone played Sherlock Holmes in 14 films.

Ever since the first Sherlock Holmes adventure, "A Study in Scarlet," appeared in Beeton's Christmas Annual in 1887, avid readers implored the author to whip up as many new stories as he could. Doyle obliged and wrote 59 more Holmes adventures before he quit.

Last chapter

In 1893, he wrote the last chapter, "The Final Problem," in which he had Holmes and his nemesis, Professor Moriarty, fighting to the death and plunging off a precepice.

He thought that was that, but the public's reaction told him otherwise. People wore black mourning bands and "Keep Holmes Alive" clubs sprang up in major cities.

Doyle stoutly resisted the public's clamor for eight long years, but he finally capitulated and wrote what some true believers regard as the most compelling of all Holmes adventures, "The Hound of the Baskervilles."

Holmes has lived on ever since, with his adventures in sleuthing and crime-solving hitting sales of more than 100 million copies.

At one time, they were even dissected by cops in Egypt as part of their training!

Silver screen

And, from the printed page, Holmes has graduated to the silver screen—with honors: The first Holmes movie, "Sherlock Holmes Baffled," was produced in 1903, with many more to follow.

Holmes has been portrayed on the screen by the likes of John Barrymore and Raymond Massey, but his most popular impersonator was Basil Rathbone, who played the great detective in 14 films!

In addition, there have been more than 30 stage plays based on Holmes' exploits, including the musical, "Baker Street." It was that production that popularized the promo blurb, "He taught James Bond everything he knows," to which Holmes' fans could only nod in vigorous assent.

More: Holmes' cases are constantly being adapted for radio and television. Scholarly clubs devoted to analyses and exigeses of his sleuthing techniques have sprung up all over Europe and the US.

Myths

In the process, some myths have been debunked. Like, "Sherlockians" have established that Holmes never said, "Elementary, my dear Watson," the quote most often attributed to him.

Despite this and other rude awakenings, one in four Londoners polled believe that Holmes was a real person.

Well, in a sense, they could be right, because Holmes' unprecedented popularity has given flesh and blood to his literary legend.

And so, Sherlock Holmes lives on—and on!

'Sky Captain' filmed entirely against blue screen

NEW YORK—"Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow" is full of visions of the dark, soaring New York cityscape, dogfights in the sky and the majestic Himalayan mountains. But what was the movie set like for the actors?

A whole lotta blue.

That's because "Sky Captain," despite its grandiose appearance, was filmed entirely against a blue screen with digital effects filled in. Though real actors star in it, almost everything else is fake. Think "Roger Rabbit" in reverse.

While computer generated imagery has for years been a large presence in movies, "Sky Captain" is the first major motion picture made entirely digitally with living, breathing actors. Only what they touch is tangible.

PALTROW and Law star in Conran's sci-fi caper.

Journey

The movie is set in a late 1930s New York beset by hundred-foot-tall robots. Soon reporter Polly Perkins (Gwyneth Paltrow) along with ex-beau Sky Captain (Jude Law) set off on a journey to stop a mad scientist's plot to destroy the world.

Drawing from old '40s serials such as "Flash Gordon," noirish pulp fiction and the classic futurism of H.G. Wells, first-time director Kerry Conran has created a vintage-looking sci-fi film using the most modern of technology. The steps to this film of more than 2,000 effects shots, though, started in a California apartment with pen and paper.

Conran began working on "Sky Captain" in 1994 by designing stylish illustrations with his brother as storyboards, which he then converted to digital images on his laptop. Toiling away on his home computer, Conran eventually produced a six-minute short (essentially the first minutes of the feature film), which attracted producer Jon Avnet and, in turn, Law and Paltrow.

Transfer

When production began, this transfer of drawings to computer graphics was done even more expertly—using a computer program that allows the designer to feel resistance, like a sculptor feels clay. Those still graphics were then animated to produce a rough, 3-D video (with digital actors) called an animatic.

After many processes of refining the lighting, depth and composition, a grid was created for each shot, and mapped out on the blue screen stage floor. Conran then shot the movie with doubles in a London studio, as a kind of dress rehearsal.

"We effectively shot the film twice," Conran told The Associated Press. "I actually shot the film before I shot the film."

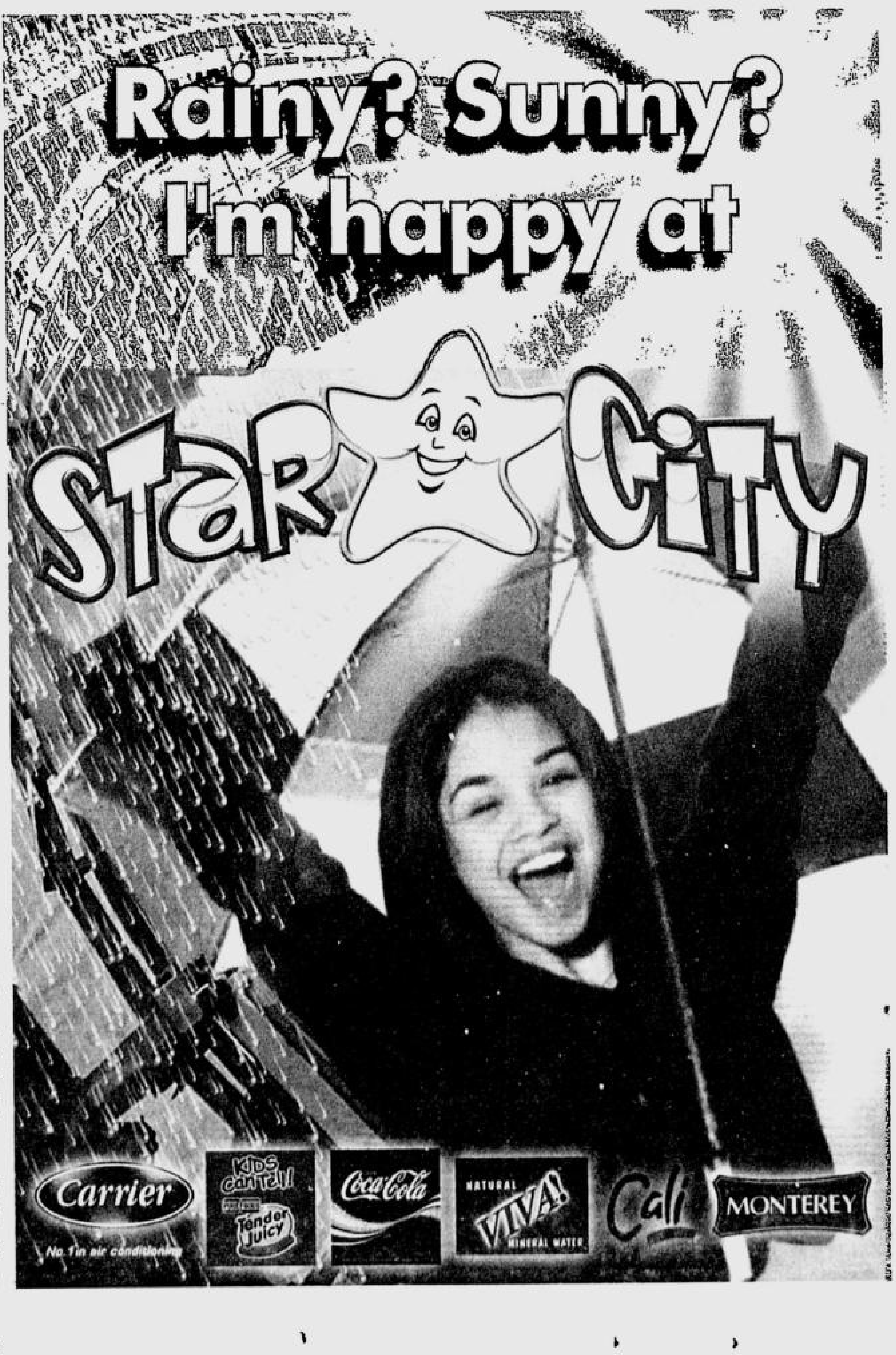
Once the adjustments of angles and shadows were made to make a cohesive, cartoonish rough cut, the primary actors were brought in for just a month of shooting in the studio. Not bad work compared to the normal months on location.

Blueprint

The animatic also served as a useful blueprint (no pun intended) for Paltrow, Law, Angelina Jolie and Giovanni Ribisi.

"What was valuable with the animatics is

SKY/ A5-2



Seeemall!

AYALA CINEMAS THX

Movies/schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729-7777

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4		GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
THX 1 SHARK TALE	1 LADDER 49	1 SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW	5 RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 LADDER 49 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40, 12:00	1 SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW
2 SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW	2 SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW	2 HOUSEOF FLYING DAGGERS	6 SHARK TALE	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 SHARK TALE 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30	2 RAISING HELEN
3 LADDER 49	3 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 LADDER 49 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30	7 THREE	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40, 12:00	3 FAHRENHEIT 9/11
4 WIMBLEDON	4 SHARK TALE	4 OPEN WATER		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 WIMBLEDON 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30	4 GODSEND
5 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS				GUARANTEED SEATS 5 SKY CAPTAIN... 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40, 12:00	5 SHARK TALE

GB1
GREENBELT 1

1 SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL
For inquiries, call 526-1448

2 SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW
11:00, 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
ANSON'S APPLIANCE EXHIBIT October 14 to 21, 2004	ANSON'S EXHIBIT October 4 to 17, 2004	METRO GAISANO & OSEUR'S FASHION SHOW October 16 2004

ENTERTAINMENT LIVE!

GREENBELT 2	GREENBELT 3
GREENBELT 2: MUSIC STYLES FEATURING THOR October 16, 7:00pm to 10:00pm	SPANISH FESTIVAL: FLAMENCO JAZZ October 22, Greenbelt 3 Park

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GREENBELT 1
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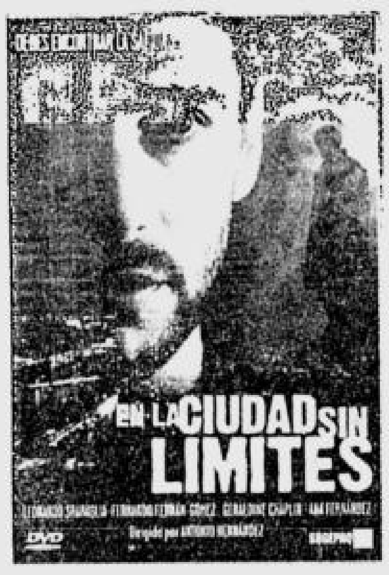

Pelicula
Pelikula
2004

AUDIENCE CHOICE

October 16 (Sat)
7pm, Greenbelt 1

Instituto Cervantes
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www.cervantes.manila.es

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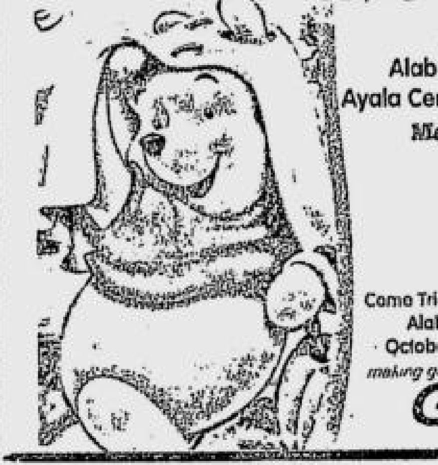

Alabang Town Center : October 27-30, 2004
Ayala Center Makati : October 29-November 2, 2004
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SM CINEMA movietime

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JOAQUIN PHOENIX JOHN TRAVOLTA
LADDER 49
moviepick of the Week

I what to watch I

THE PODIUM CINEMA
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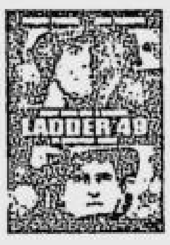
LATE NIGHT SCREENING
DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

1 THE HOUSE OF THE FLYING DAGGERS
11:15 FS/ 11:45 MF/ 2:15/ 4:45/ 7:15/ 9:15 LFS/ 9.45 LMF/ 11:45 END

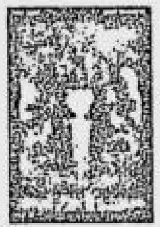
2 LADDER 49
11:15 FS/ 11:45 MF/ 2:15/ 4:45/ 7:15/ 9:15 LFS/ 9.45 LMF/ 11:45 END

HOUSE OF THE FLYING DAGGERS MTRCB Rating: PG 13
SM City Bicutan Cinema 2
SM City Fairview Cinema 9
SM City Tutuban Cinema 4
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 8
SM City Southmall Cinema 1
SM Supercenter Sucat Cinema 2
SM City Manila Cinema 6
SM City North Edsa Cinema 6
SM Megamall Cinema 4



LADDER 49 MTRCB Rating: PG 13
SM City Manila Cinema 1
SM City North Edsa Cinema 8
SM Megamall Cinema 3
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 5
SM City Southmall Cinema 4
SM City Tutuban Cinema 2
SM City Fairview Cinema 7
SM City Bicutan Cinema 1
SM Supercenter Sucat Cinema

OPEN WATER MTRCB Rating: PG 13
SM Fairview Cinema 11
SM Megamall Cinema 11
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 5
SM City Southmall Cinema 10
SM City Manila Cinema 7
SM City North Edsa Cinema 4



THE PUNISHER MTRCB Rating: R 13
SM City Manila Cinema 3
SM Megamall Cinema 6
SM City Southmall Cinema 8
SM City Fairview Cinema 12
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 2

SHARK TALE MTRCB Rating: G
SM Supercenter Sucat Cinema 4
SM City Bicutan Cinema 3
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 7
SM City Southmall Cinema 2
SM Fairview Cinema 8
SM City Manila Cinema 2
SM City North Edsa Cinema 2
SM Megamall Cinema 9

SKY CAPTAIN AND THE WORLD OF TOMMOROW SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING
SM City North EDSA Cinema 5
SM Southmall Cinema 3
SM Supercenter Sucat Cinema 3
SM City Manila Cinema 4
SM Megamall Cinema 2
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 9
SM Fairview Cinema 4
SM City Tututban Cinema 1
SM City Bicutan Cinema 4

THREE MTRCB Rating: R 13
SM Fairview Cinema 10
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 6
SM City Manila Cinema 10
SM Megamall Cinema 7
SM City North EDSA Cinema
SM Southmall Cinema 9

BOURNE SUPREMACY MTRCB Rating: R 13
SM City Manila Cinema 12
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 10
SM City Fairview Cinema 3
SM Megamall Cinema 5

FENG SHUI SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING
SM City Manila Cinema 3
SM City North Edsa Cinema 3
SM City Fairview Cinema 6
SM Megamall Cinema 8
SM City Sta.Mesa Cinema 1
SM City Southmall Cinema 7
SM City Tutuban Cinema 3

RESIDENT EVIL MTRCB Rating: R 13
SM City Manila Cinema 5
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 3
SM City North EDSA Cinema 1
SM Southmall Cinema 6
SM City Fairview Cinema 5
SM Megamall Cinema 10

WIMBLEDON SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING
SM City Manila Cinema 11
SM Megamall Cinema 12
SM City Southmall Cinema 5
SM City Fairview Cinema 1

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Sky . . .

From page A5-1

that it showed the actors what the shot was," Avnet says. "There was enough detail for (Paltrow) to understand exactly what was happening and that when she's stepping on dots, it's actually an entire plane."

And so the movie was shot in one room—one very blue room.

"It was a sea of blue, literally," says Paltrow. "It was blue everywhere, blue floors, blue walls with various dots in places to orient the computer."

The dots also oriented the actors, signifying things like a killer robot or an airplane cockpit. But the blue screen and dots did not exactly facilitate emotional performances.

Difficult

"It was difficult at times, but at the same time you also kind of free your mind and your art follows," says Law. "And the fact is, we were really in this kind of make-believe world, anyhow. You could say it was kind of similar to doing theater in empty spaces."

Shot on high-definition digital film, Paltrow and others in "Sky Captain" are muted in a soft-focus to give them the textured look of old black-and-white movies.

Layers and layers of composites were done to each frame to add greater detail to each shot. The total amount of digital painting for the hundred-minute movie is staggering.

Avnet tried to do the math: "24 frames, times 60 seconds, times 100 minutes, and how many dots in each frame? And then do seven, eight, 15, 20 iterations of each frame?" Calculatorless, he answers appropriately with a whistle.

Unique creation

The result of all of these steps is a unique creation of futuristic retro where Jolie captains an air station and the New York streets almost look real. The experience of watching the film is a little jarring given the new melding of reality and fantasy. "Sky Captain" also has an odd, somewhat unsettling tempo because of the preordained, digital production.

"It's so difficult to get the effects right, that you tend to celebrate every shot you get done," Avnet says. "But you have to look at the movie and see if it's any good. That was very challenging just to make sure that we didn't have a technically proficient movie that nobody would be able to follow."

More wholly digital films are on the way. "The Polar Express," an adaptation of the children's book to be released in November, was made digitally and uses representations of actors, including a cartoonish Tom Hanks designed directly from his movements and gestures.

Conran sees computer generated

SKY/A5-3

JOLIE. Plays a pilot in groundbreaking adventure flick.

'Sky Captain' . . .

From page A5-2

images as simply another step in a long line of film technology advancement: Sound to color to digital.

"I use digital effects more as a tool, no different from any other kind of production tool," he says.

It's potentially a "world of tomorrow" unto itself. *AP*

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

3 Dolby SKY CAPTAIN
12.50 pm 3:30 pm 6:10 pm 8:50 pm

4 LADDER 49
1:00 pm 3:40 pm 6:20 pm 9:00 pm

5 dts FLYING DAGGERS
12:35 pm 3:20 pm 6:05 pm 8:50 pm

6 Dolby SHARK TALE
12.10 am 2:20 pm 4:30 pm 6:40 pm 8:55 pm

7 Dolby FENG SHUI
11.35 am 1:55 pm 4:15 pm 6:35 pm 8:55 pm

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Oct 24 GINEBRA vs SHELL 6:30 pm
Oct 27 FEDEX vs COKE 7:20 pm

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
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MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	KARELASYON / NAG-AAPOY NA LAMAN
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	KAULAYAW
B	CLOSED
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1,2,3 & 4	LADDER 49 / SHARK TALE / THREE / FLYING DAGGERS
PREMIERE THEATRE	SKY CAPTAIN
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MASARAP ANG UNANG KAGAT (RE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-2	PERLAS
CINEMA-3	FENG SHUI
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LADDER 49
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	THE PUNISHER
CINEMA-6	ANIMAL (RE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-7	RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE
CINEMA-8	LIGAYA KATUMBAS NG BUHAY (RE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LADDER 49
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW
CINEMA-12	THREE
CINEMA-14	SHARK TALE
CINEMA-15	OPEN WATER
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	BOURNE SUPREMACY
CINEMA-1	FENG SHUI
CINEMA-2	SECRET WINDOW
CINEMA-4	[illegible]
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

SHANG CINEPLEX

① **LADDER 49**
FS: 11:20 AM, 2:00 PM, 4:40 PM, 7:20 PM
LMF: 10:00 PM (PG-13)

② **SHARK TALE**
FS: 12:00 PM, 2:00 PM, 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM 8:00 PM, LMF: 10:00 PM (GP)

③ **SKY CAPTAIN**
FS: 12:00 PM, 2:30 PM, 5:00 PM, 7:30 PM
LMF: 10:00 PM (GP)

④ **HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS**
FS: 11:20 AM, 2:00 PM, 4:40 PM, 7:20 PM
LMF: 10:00 PM (PG-13 with Caution)

PREMIERE THEATRE SHARK TALE
FS: 11 AM, 1 PM, 3 PM, 5 PM, 7 PM, LMF: 9 PM (GP)

For more information please call 633-2227 / 633-7851 loc. 171

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1 **SHARK TALE**
10:55, 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 10:00
GP

2 **LADDER 49**
9:50, 12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:10
PG 13

3 **SKY CAPTAIN**
10:35, 1:05, 3:35, 6:10, 8:35, 11:05

4 **HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGER**
11:25, 2:10, 4:55, 7:40, 10:30
PG 13

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star group of cinemas movie guide

IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

starmall EDSA - SHAW
Tel. No. 726.61.50
Ladder 49
Flying Daggers
Resident Evil 2

METROPOLIS star ALABANG
Tel. No. 850.42.85
Resident Evil 2
Feng Shui
Punisher
Ladder 49
Sky Captain
Flying Daggers

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CINEMA 1 **LADDER 49**
11:35, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15
PG13

CINEMA 2 **SKY CAPTAIN**
11:30, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:50
GP

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

WIMBLEDON **PG13** 12:45,2:55,5:05,7:25,9:40	**SHARK TALE** **GP** 11:50,1:50,3:50,5:50,7:50,9:50	**SKY CAPTAIN** **GP** 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00
HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS **PG13** 12:10,2:40,5:10,7:40,10:10	**SHARK TALE** **GP** 1:00,3:00,5:00 **LADDER 49** **PG13** 7:25,9:55	**LADDER 49** **PG13** 12:30,3:00,5:30,8:00,10:30

MATINEE SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - P 81 - MON. TO FRI.

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CINEMA 1 THX LADDER 49 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30

2 LADDER 49 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
3 THREE 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
4 SHARK TALE 11:10, 1.20, 3.30, 5.40, 7.50, 10:00
5 SKY CAPTAIN 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
6 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10.00
7 OPEN WATER 12:30, 2.20, 4:10, 6.00, 7.50, 9.40
8 FENG SHUI 12:40, 3.00, 5 20, 7.40, 10:00
9 RESIDENT EVIL 2 12.40, 3 00, 5 20, 7.40, 10 00
10 WIMBLEDON 12:40, 3.00, 5:20, 7.40, 10:00

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ERMITA
536-7809 to 12

1 SKY CAPTAIN 1:15, 3:35, 5:55, 8:15, 10:00
2 OPEN WATER 10:30, 12:20, 2:10, 4.00, 5:50, 7:40, 9:30
3 LADDER 49 1:40, 4:15, 6.55, 9.40
4 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5 10, 7:30, 9:50
5 SHARK TALE 10:20, 12:15, 2:10, 4.05, 6:00, 7:55, 9.50
6 THREE 1.40, 4:15, 6.50, 9:40
7 RESIDENT EVIL 2 10:40, 12 50, 3.00, 5:15, 7.25, 9.40

METRO EAST
682-8193/99 / 682-8280

1 OPEN WATER 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6.50, 9.00
RESIDENT EVIL 2 11:30, 1:50, 4:20, 6.40, 9:10
FENG SHUI 11:00, 1.00, 3 00, 5 00, 7.00, 9:00
THREE 12.30, 3.20, 6.10, 9.00
5 SKY CAPTAIN 11:50, 2.30, 5:10, 7.50, 10:30
6 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:30, 10:30
LADDER 49 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5.10, 7:30, 9.50
8 SHARK TALE 10.50, 12:50, 2.50, 4:50, 6.50, 8 50, 10:30

NOVALICHES
935-3229 / 31

LADDER 49 11:00, 1:25, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40
HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS 12.10, 2.50, 5.30, 8 15
FENG SHUI 11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6.00, 8:30
THE PUNISHER 1 00, 3.30, 6:00, 8.30
SHARK TALE 11:00, 1:00, 3 00, 5.00, 7:00, 8:45
6 THREE 12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:15
SKY CAPTAIN 10:15, 12.45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:20
8 RESIDENT EVIL 2 11.00, 1 20, 3 40, 6 00, 8.25

Citisquare MALABON
288-0985/2575

SHARK TALE 10:30, 12.30, 2:30, 4:30, 6.30, 8:30
HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS 11.10, 1:30, 3 50, 6:10, 8.30
THE PUNISHER 11:10, 1:30, 3.50, 6:10, 8.30
4 FENG SHUI 11:10, 1.30, 3:50, 6.10, 8.30

CAINTA
240-4661

SHARK TALE 10:30, 12 30, 2.30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30
LADDER 49 11:20, 1 40, 4 00, 6 20, 8 40
THREE 11:30, 2.20, 5.10, 8 00
4 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS 11 00, 1:20, 3 40, 6:00, 8:20

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Lynn Sherman waxes 'Sayang' remake to fight piracy

By Rito P. Asilo

AFTER hearing salesladies sing along—with infectious zest and familiar vigor—to the latest remake of Claire dela Fuente's enduring '70s jukebox anthem for the broken-hearted, "Sayang," during a quick visit to a record bar, we sat down for a quick chat with Lynn Sherman, the sultry owner of the remake's lush voice, during a lull at a rehearsal of New Voice's big musical production, "Cabaret."

Tour de force

Two years ago, we acted with Lynn in another musical, "Falsettos"—as her ethically-challenged shrink-turned-husband! She earned richly deserved, glowing reviews for her acting-singing *tour de force.*

But, talent and good looks are not the only reasons why Lynn keeps a busy calendar: People love her no-frills attitude toward work.

On the other hand, she likes shaking things up, and enjoys ruffling artistic feathers with challenges that constantly hone her craft as a versatile performer. In "Cabaret," she embraces the raunchy, tragic persona of her character, Fraulein Kost, with "careful" abandon.

After dabbling in films like "Sanib," television ("Luv to Luv," "Kakabakaba Ka Ba"), and the concert scene (with Bond Samson's Ugoy-Ugoy Band), Lynn returns to the recording scene with a CD 45, a three-track collection, priced way below the P100 mark to combat piracy.

She explains: "Dyna gave me a couple of songs to choose from, and I picked James Dy and Marilyn Villapando's 'Sayang,' because I liked the idea of pushing a song that was a hit—it won't be too difficult to get some airplay on the radio. The constant airplay the song now enjoys is a modest win for the beleaguered industry.

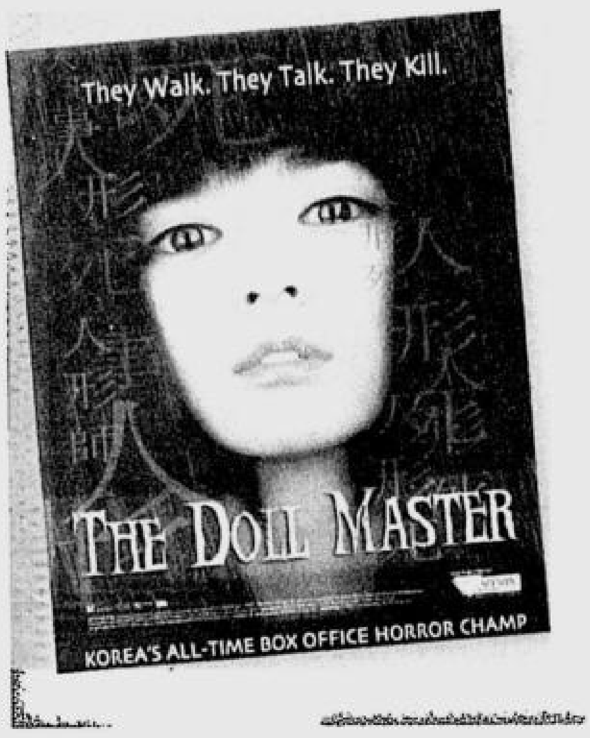
Difficult time

"The industry is having a difficult time because of piracy. It's hard for record companies to sign up people. Of course, investors wouldn't want to risk blowing huge capital on money-losing ventures. So, Dyna came up with the concept of a 'CD single' or 'CD 45,' that contains three songs, reasonably priced to compete with low-quality pirated products.

"The principle behind the limited number of tracks is that, a lot of times, when you buy a CD, you purchase it because you like one or two songs—and this is true for me. When you bring down the number of songs, you push down its price, thus making it more affordable."

Lynn's CD 45 also contains Peach Abubakar's sweet, radio-friendly ballad, "Beautiful Sky." Other than "Sayang," arranged with a more upbeat lilt by Rommel Reyes, the collection includes a bonus track, "So Sad," Alan Ayque's English adaptation of "Sayang."

SHERMAN. Enjoys ruffling artistic feathers.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ABC scores big ratings with debuts

LOS ANGELES—ABC has had more good news as its darkly comic "Desperate Housewives" emerged as as the network's most watched series debut in eight years, and the highest-rated launch of a new show on US television so far this season.

The hour-long primetime soap, exploring the secret lives of suburbanites from the omniscient perspective of a housewife who committed suicide, drew 21.3 million viewers in its debut broadcast, Nielsen Media Research reported.

Series premiere

That tally marked the biggest audience to tune into a series premiere on ABC since "Spin City" was launched in September 1996.

It also ranks as the most watched debut of a new show on any network this season, surpassing the premiere of "CSI: NY" on CBS in total viewers (19.3 million) and the launch of NBC's "Joey" among the 18- to 49-year-old viewers most prized by advertisers.

For its 9 p.m. slot, "Desperate Housewives" exceeded its nearest competition—the second half of CBS's "Cold Case" and the beginning of its Sunday movie presentation—by 10 million viewers overall!

An hour later, another new ABC drama, "Boston Legal," dominated its 10 p.m. time slot with 13.8 million viewers overall and the No. 1 rating in the key 18-49 demographic, exceeding No. 2 "Crossing Jordan" on NBC by both measures.

Dubious ethics

"Boston Legal," a spinoff of the ABC courtroom drama "The Practice" from David E. Kelly, stars James Spader as a lawyer of dubious ethics. By comparison, "The Practice" averaged 9.1 million viewers during its final season in the same time slot last year.

The strong showing for ABC's two new series premieres comes as the struggling network is celebrating the success of its new castaway thriller, "Lost," which appears to have materialized as a bonafide hit on Wednesday nights.

"Lost" averaged 18.7 million and 17 million viewers, respectively, in its first two airings.

Primetime drama

The Walt Disney-owned network has struggled to get a new primetime drama off the ground since launching its spy thriller, "Alias," in 2001.

Shareholder anger over ABC's faltering ratings during the past few years was a focal point in the recent ouster of two top network executives and the installation of a new management team, which has made drama development one of the network's top priorities.

Reuters

DIRECTOR Saw Teong Hin (center), with Tiara Jacquelina and M. Nasir. AP

Expectations soar for 'Princess of Mount Ledang'

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia—For weeks, the nationwide frenzy of anticipation for "Princess of Mount Ledang"—Malaysia's most expensive movie ever—had been inescapable.

Mammoth street billboards proclaimed the coming of this Malay-language epic based on centuries-old local folklore about a beautiful princess who spurns the love of a tyrannical sultan.

The theme song reigned on radio charts. Newspaper columnists speculated that the picture could be the first from this Southeast Asian country to win widespread foreign acclaim.

"Is Malaysia capable of creating a film to match worldwide standards? This movie proves it," says Gil Rossellini, a New York-based film distribution executive who helped the movie secure its international premiere at the Venice Film Festival.

Rare glimpse

Rossellini expected global audiences to relish a rare glimpse at the pre-colonial era monarchies of Southeast Asia in a movie that he said reminded him of historical dramas made by his adoptive father, Roberto Rossellini, the legendary director who pioneered Italy's school of neorealist cinema decades ago.

By Hollywood's standards, the 15 million ringgit ($4 million; euro 3.25 million) spent to recreate 15th century Malay village life and palace intrigue might seem minuscule. But, it's 10 times the budget of most movies in a nation where scarcely two dozen local films play each year and American blockbusters rule the multiplexes.

The enterprise—produced by Malaysian entertainment company Enfiniti and helmed by Saw Teong Hin, a local music video veteran who is making his feature film directorial debut—carried more than the whiff of a prestige piece.

Anniversary

It opened when Malaysia celebrated the 47th anniversary of its independence from Britain. It was the first big-screen period drama about the Malay sultanate since the 1960s. And it told a story that's beloved by many Malaysians.

"I wanted to be a part of this movie because we all grew up with this tale, which was told to us by our grandparents and taught to us in school," said Tiara Jacquelina, a Malaysian actress who took on the title role of a princess who is betrothed to the cruel ruler of a maritime empire, but loves one of his bodyguards instead.

The movie was certain to spark a box-office stampede for people who were fatigued with the Malaysian film industry's typical output of adolescent comedies and horror knockoffs.

"Princess of Mount Ledang" was easy on the eyes, showing off colorful, splendidly outfitted characters amid sweeping vistas of misty mountaintops, white coastlines and gnarled forests.

Grave observations

But it was saddled with a script that gave those characters little to do but make grave observations about how chickens cannot outrun foxes and people should be careful while crossing oceans, because the waters might somehow transform into flames. From the start, the movie traded narrative urgency for deadly solemnness and perpetual philosophizing.

Jacquelina and M. Nasir, who played her warrior lover, had charisma to spare, but their romance never ignited, partly since they had less than a half-hour of screen time together in a 155-minute movie.

Jacquelina's character seemed content to stare at sunsets and take long, solitary baths near a waterfall, while Nasir was elsewhere, wrestling with existential angst.

Nevertheless, the filmmakers had high hopes for the movie's rollout in Venice.

After that, "Princess of Mount Ledang" will probably be shown at other film festivals while awaiting a possible distribution deal in the United States and Europe.

"It's not easy to get attention in this big world, but we hope people will embrace this movie, because it showcases our country's culture and heritage," said producer Shazalli Ramly.

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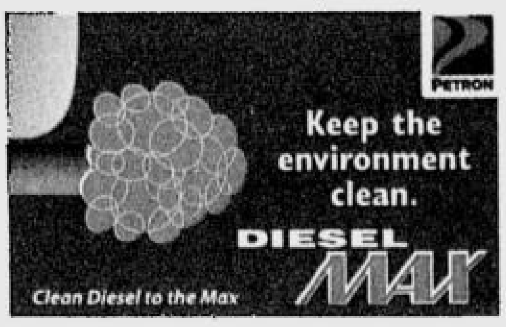
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OFW remittances surged 46% in August

By Doris C. Dumlao

DOLLARS remitted by overseas Filipino workers jumped by 45.9 percent in August to $791 million from a year ago, its fastest rise since 1999, as manpower services continued to be a key Philippine export.

Without this contribution from OFWs, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the country would be in a dire situation.

"This accounts for almost 11 percent of our GDP (gross domestic product) and 16 percent of our current account surplus," Buenaventura said.

The BSP chief also noted that remittances from OFWs had a 100-percent value added unlike the country's top merchandise exports—semiconductors and garments—which had a high import content.

The August remittances brought the eight-month level of OFW inflow this year to $5.5 billion, 9.4 percent higher than the $5.1 billion chalked up during the same period last year.

The surge in inflow during the month was attributed to the increase in the number of OFWs as well as the deployment of higher paid workers.

Also aiding the jump in remittances were commercial banks' aggressive promotion campaign and wider service coverage to attract more OFWs to use formal channels by improving the efficiency of remittance systems, expanding the number of remittance centers and increasing tie-ups with foreign financial institutions.

"The growth in remittances during the period provides greater optimism that the country's projected 6-percent growth or equivalent to $8.1 billion for the whole of 2004 is achievable and may be exceeded," Buenaventura said.

Early this year, the BSP projected only a 3-percent expansion in OFW remittances this year, taking into account stiff competition from workers originating from other developing countries like India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. However, the deployment of more workers and the more attractive peso-dollar exchange rates increased the flow of remittances.

Bulk of the OFW inflows in August came from workers deployed in Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Italy, the United States, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Buenaventura said OFW remittances continued to be an important component in both the national income accounts and balance of payments.

"OFW remittances for the remaining months of 2004 are expected to sustain the uptrend with the onset of the Holiday season," he said.

He said OFW inflow would continue to contribute significantly to the domestic economy in the coming years.

"It looks like the demand for skilled Filipino workers is still strong," Buenaventura said. "The only question is whether we could cope with our supply."

Through the years, the Philippines has been relying on huge remittances from OFWs to boost domestic consumption. In 2003, OFW remittances pumped $7.64 billion into the domestic economy.

BIR expands coverage of documentary stamp tax

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue has completed a draft revenue regulation that will expand the coverage of documentary stamp tax (DST) on bank transactions.

Revenue Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares said that upon the issuance of the revenue regulation, banks will be required to pay DST on transactions that offer yields higher than the prevailing interest rate, among them special savings accounts.

The regulation will also impose a DST on passbook savings account.

"Actually, the revenue regulation will just clarify the provisions of the law regarding DST on bank transactions. We just want to stress that those bank transactions should be subject to DST because this has been contested by some banks," Henares said.

Banks were earlier questioning the BIR for asking them to pay DST on passbook accounts, claiming passbooks were not considered "documents" and therefore should not be subject to the tax. The BIR countered that the DST was not really a tax on documents, but on transactions.

The draft revenue regulation has been submitted by the BIR to the Department of Finance, the BIR's head agency, for approval.

The revenue regulation will serve as guidelines in the implementation of RA 9238, or the DST law. While the revenue regulation has yet to be issued, the DST law was signed last March 20.

Aside from clarifying what bank transactions are subject to DST, the revenue regulation also adjusted the rate of DST and the basis of its collection.

From 30 centavos for every P200 worth of transaction, the rate of the DST on loan documents will be increased to P1. For transactions involving insurance services, the amount of DST to be collected will be based on the amount of premium remitted to insurance companies and not on the amount of the insurance policy.

Insurance firms had been lobbying for the shift in the basis of collecting DST. They said it was unfair that they would pay DST based on the amount of insurance policy because they do not collect payments all the time. They said they encountered instances when they were paying DST to the BIR although their clients paid no premiums.

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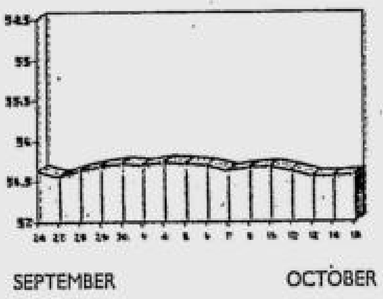

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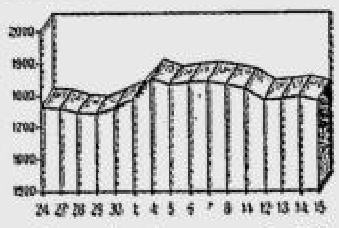
STOCK MARKET

Stock slump to 2-week low



(See stock market report on Page B6)

STOCKS fell to a two-week low yesterday on concerns about the weak peso and signs of impatience by international ratings agencies at the slow pace of economic reform in the country.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), the country's largest phone firm, led the decline, falling 1.72 percent or P25 to P1,425 due to profit-taking, according to analysts. It accounted for 14 percent of total trade.

"The peso lingering near the record low of 56.45 per dollar has a negative psychological effect. Companies that have foreign debt would see their balance sheet deteriorate. Those that are huge buyers of imported materials would see their costs rise," said AB Capital economic analyst Jose Vistan.

Vistan said players also tracked the sharp drop in the Dow Jones Industrial Index, which fell below the psychological 10,000-level as oil spiked to a fresh record near $55 per barrel.

The main index finished 0.88 percent or 15.89 points lower at 1,781.41 points, its lowest since Oct. 1. The market is up 24 percent so far this year.

Value turnover dropped to P448.59 million from Thursday's P979.3 million.

In the broader market, losers beat gainers 44 to 35.

The peso touched its record low of 56.45 per dollar for a third straight day on concerns about the government's inability to contain its hefty budget deficit.

Reuters

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9-month BOP swings back to $44-M surplus

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES' balance of payment swung back to a surplus of $44 million in September after posting monthly shortfalls for three straight months, trimming the year-to-date deficit to $178 million.

The January-to-September shortfall was much lower than the $775-million deficit during the same period last year and the $222-million deficit for the first 7 months of this year.

The September BOP surplus was likewise a turnaround from the $129-million deficit incurred in the same month last year.

In a briefing yesterday, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the September surplus was a net windfall from the $1-billion global bond offering of the national government.

However, he said the net inflow was tempered by the debt repayments of the BSP, the national government itself and National Power Corp.

The government's latest bond offering involved the selling of additional Republic of the Philippines (ROP) bonds due 2015 and 2025.

The $300-million ROP bonds due 2015 were priced at 98.00, or 497 basis points over US treasuries, while the $700 million in bonds due 2025 were priced at 106.25, or a spread of 492 basis points over treasuries.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the economy and the rest of the world. Its major components are the current account and the capital and financial account.

The current account records trade in goods and services as well as transfers while the capital and financial account records loan transactions, investment flows, short-term capital and other related items.

Any transaction which gives rise to a payment by a Philippine resident like importation or offshore investment is a deficit item while any transaction which gives rise to a receipt like exporting or inward remittance and investment is a surplus item.

Next year, the BSP expects to post a BOP surplus of $570 million, a turnaround from the $505-million deficit this year.

For this year, the country's current account is expected to post a surplus of $1.48 billion, as increased demand for electronics and machinery and transport equipment boost export earnings.

The services sector is also seen posting lower deficits due to the following:

- lower net services outflow due to higher receipts from travel and communication;
- rise in visitor arrivals such as from the US, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, and
- increased operations of call centers behind higher net receipts in communications.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 90, QUEZON CITY

IN THE MATTER OF:

PETITION FOR REHABILITATION
WITH PRAYER FOR SUSPENSION
OF ACTIONS AND PROCEEDINGS
AGAINST PETITIONER

SPECIAL PROCEEDING NO. Q-03-071
MANILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.,
Petitioner

x————————————————x

ORDER

The issue to be resolved by this Court is whether or not there is merit in the petition for corporate rehabilitation (with prayer for suspension of actions and proceedings) in this case (See Section 9, Rule 4, Interim Rules of Procedure on Corporate Rehabilitation) On November 17, 2003, a Stay Order was issued by this Court. (see also Order dated August 20, 2004, Order dated September 9, 2004 and Omnibus Order dated September 29, 2004)

After carefully evaluating the submissions of the parties in their respective pleadings in relation to the pertinent portions of the records and those made during the hearings, this Court finds and so holds that there is merit in the petition. Consequently, the petition is given due course. The petition for corporate rehabilitation and its annexes (except Annex E - the November 13, 2003 original Rehabilitation Plan) and the September 2004 Revised Rehabilitation Plan are referred to the Rehabilitation Receiver, Mrs. Rosario S. Bernaldo, a C.P.A. lawyer. The Rehabilitation Receiver is ordered to evaluate the September 2004 Revised Rehabilitation Plan in connection with the concerns of various creditors/interested parties which must be effectively addressed as much as possible and to submit her report containing her recommendation/s thereon to this Court not later than November 29, 2004 (Monday).

The petitioner-corporation/Rehabilitation Receiver are ordered to cause the publication of this Order in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, the Manila Bulletin, The Philippine Star, and the Malaya on October 16, 2004 (Saturday) in the business section of the said newspapers so that all interested partied and the public may be informed of the latest development in this case.

SO ORDERED.
Quezon City, September 29, 2004

REYNALDO B. DAWAY, C.P.A.
Presiding Judge

ERC approves new rate recovery mechanism

By Abigail L. Ho

THE ENERGY Regulatory Commission has approved a monthly automatic rate adjustment mechanism, replacing the existing quarterly scheme.

To do away with the lag time in the recovery of distribution utilities' generation costs, the ERC allowed power distributors to replace the quarterly generation rate adjustment mechanism (GRAM) with a recovery scheme similar to the much condemned purchased power adjustment or PPA.

The reason cited for the shift was the delay in cost recovery that distribution utilities had to endure. The distributors claimed they could only pass on their power supply charges to end-consumers four to six months after having incurred such charges.

For example, the Lopez-led Manila Electric Co. said that its recently approved GRAM translated to additional charges worth 17.37 centavos per kilowatt-hour (kWh). Meralco's GRAM, which covered the months of February to May, was only passed on to customers last month.

The ERC yesterday said in a statement that the new mechanism would be easier for consumers to understand as whatever fluctuations in generation charges for a particular month would be passed on to them the following month.

This can then prevent public outcries in case generation charges decline at a time when a distribution utility's GRAM has been approved.

Also, as the new automatic monthly adjustment mechanism will eliminate the lag time, consumers will no longer have to pay power distributors a certain amount representing "carrying charges" pegged on the 91-day treasury bill rate plus a 3-percentage point spread.

"The ERC assures the electricity consuming public that, under the new scheme, the generation charge will remain as a pass-on charge and will not generate additional revenue for the distribution utility which merely acts as a collector of this charge," ERC Chair Rodolfo Albano said.

Upon implementation of the proposed guidelines, the GRAM would no longer be applicable to distribution utilities.

Power distributors' final GRAM filings should be done within 60 days from the effectivity of the guidelines.

The final GRAM filing will cover the period from their last approved GRAM filing to the effectivity of the new guidelines.

The new guidelines would take effect 15 days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation. Albano said this would likely be published by today.

Meantime, militant group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) scored the ERC for again allowing power distributors like Meralco to implement monthly power rate increases.

"This is bad news for consumers. We're going back to the old system of the PPA wherein we have to face monthly rate increases. The mode of collections changed but the essence of these unjust payments remain," said Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr.

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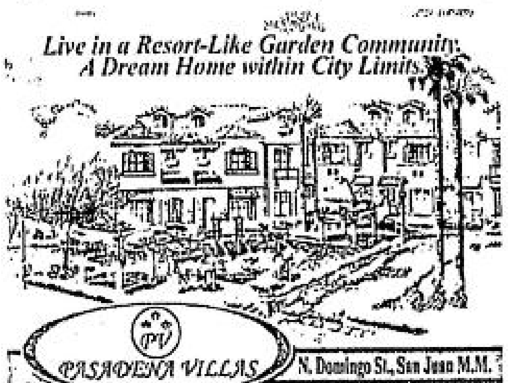

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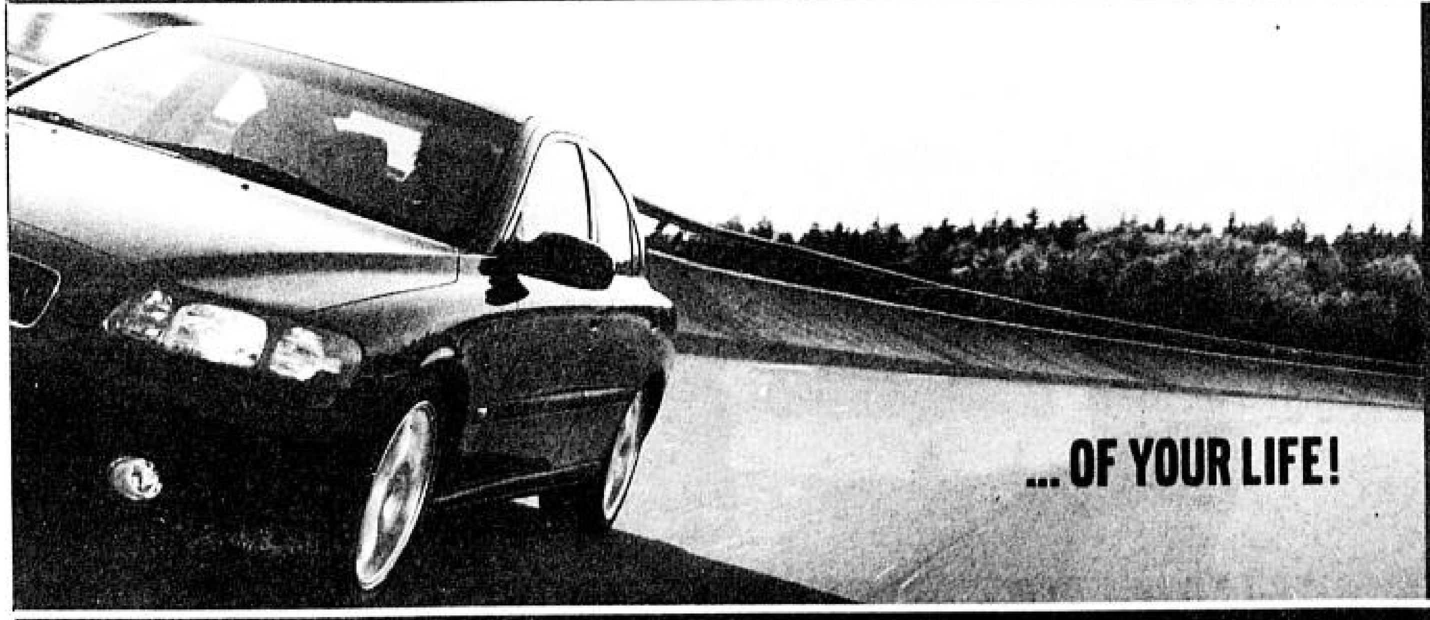

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THE SECRET TO GOOD HAIR DAYS.

Everyone wants to have a good hair day, everyday. To achieve that, one has to take good care of their hair. This means regular washing and conditioning to keep the hair healthy, shiny, and vibrant. But apart from regular washing and conditioning, taking care of your hair also includes your scalp. One of the most common scalp problems is dandruff.

To learn more about dandruff and how to control it, here are the answers to frequently asked questions about dandruff:

What is dandruff exactly?
A person's entire body surface continuously sheds dead skin cells. The skin itself sheds every twenty-four days. This is also a normal process for the scalp. However, due to the excessive rate of skin renewal caused by a proliferation of fungus, we experience clumpy flakes or dandruff.

Dandruff is a problem, but is it a disease?
No, it is not a disease and it is not contagious. It is just a disorder of the scalp's natural cell replacement process. As a result, a person with dandruff experiences itching, prickling sensations, and unsightly flakes on the hair and/or shoulder.

What can make the flaking of dandruff worse?
The flaking of dandruff can be made worse through:

- Excessive use of hairsprays and gels
- Improper use of hair-coloring products or excessive use of electric hair appliances
- Cold weather and dry indoor heating
- Tight fitting hats and scarves
- Infrequent shampooing of the hair or inadequate rinsing
- Stress, anxiety and tension
- Poor diet which lowers body resistance from bacterial attacks

Does washing your hair everyday get rid of dandruff?
Although washing your hair everyday helps, it is only a partial solution. Because of the natural oils & sweat secreted from our scalp, it promotes as a breeding ground for dandruff.

How can we get rid of dandruff?
To get rid of dandruff, what you need is to deposit an anti-fungal agent to attack these yeast-like organisms and control the spreading. A good anti-fungal agent is Zinc Pyrithione because it is highly effective while maintaining the skin's structural make-up more than any other agent.

What products, containing Zinc Pyrithione, are the most effective in controlling dandruff?
For lasting effectiveness, Kérastase Paris combines Zinc Pyrithione with other anti-fungal agents: Salicylic Acid which eliminates the massed cells from the surface of your scalp, Glycerin, refreshing agent, and Cationic Polymers, to soften and smoothen the hair. These ingredients combine to form the Pure Detox System found in the entire Kérastase Anti-Dandruff line.

What is the Pure Detox System and what does it do?
The Pure Detox System cleanses the scalp, eliminates dandruff, refreshes and regenerates the damaged skin. It was developed based on active ingredients known to be highly effective against the most stubborn scalp flaking. The Pure Detox System makes use of:

- Zinc Pyrithione – an anti-fungal agent that kills the harmful micro-organisms on our scalp.
- Salicylic Acid – exfoliates to remove flakes
- Glycerol – moisturizes and soothes the scalp
- Refreshing Agents – calms irritation and relaxes the scalp

To provide genuine, tailor-made solutions, the Kérastase Spécifique Anti-Dandruff range resolves scalp and hair problems with three product suggestions depending on the hair type.

Present this coupon to any of the participating salons* and receive a
COMPLIMENTARY
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By appointment only.
Valid from Monday to Thursday only.

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KÉRASTASE
PARIS

*See participating salons below.

How do I use the Kérastase Spécifique Anti-Dandruff line so I can benefit from the Pure Detox System?

The Kérastase Spécifique Anti-Dandruff line has three components:

- Peeling Purifiant - an in-salon scalp treatment specially formulated to purify, soothe and cleanse the scalp to remove flakes
- Bain Gommage – purifying shampoo for scalps with dandruff problem. The formula eliminates dandruff and soothes the scalp with regular use. The scalp is restored to the correct cell renewal rhythm, avoiding the recurrence of dandruff
- Fluide Purifiant – a leave-on lotion applied after shampooing which conditions and coats the hair and scalp to prevent further flaking

Which of the following products should we use?
Although the Kérastase Spécifique Anti-Dandruff products can be bought individually, the Pure Detox System is a three-step system, and the use of the three products is recommended to achieve the best results faster.

Have you tested these methods? Do they work?
Yes. The Pure Detox System works. And the system works best when all the products in the Kérastase Spécifique line are used together. You'll be saying goodbye to the prickling sensation and the flaking of your scalp in no time.

Are these products safe?
The very foundation of the Kérastase performance stems from the work of over 3,000 researchers from L'Oreal's Advance Research Laboratories. It offers the world's latest scientific breakthroughs and technological innovations.

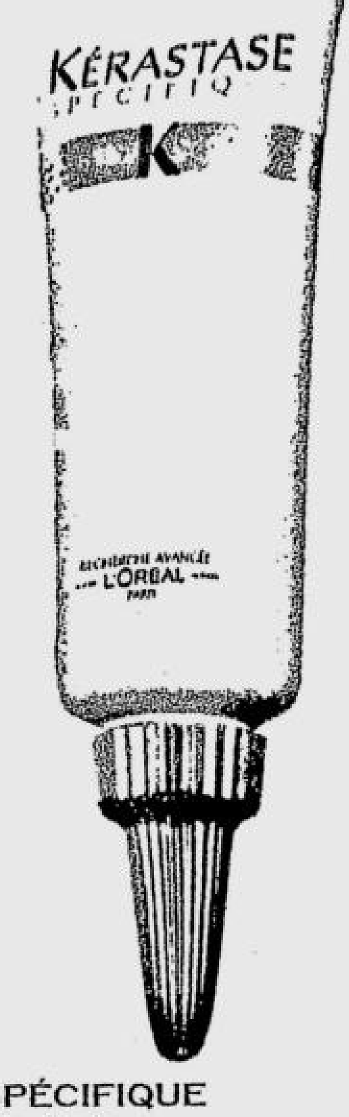
So for glorious, dandruff-free hair, visit your Kérastase salon today!
And to good hair days, you'll be well on your way.

For more information, call the Kérastase hotline: 638-8146

KÉRASTASE
PARIS

Beauty Rituals for the Scalp

www.kerastase.com



KÉRASTASE SPÉCIFIQUE
Beauty Rituals for the Scalp

True beauty programmes: These specialist treatments combine in-depth treatment for the scalp and targeted treatment of the hair substance.

A shock intervention in the salon. Intense moments at home.

- Ritual Stimulant for hair loss problems
- Ritual Pure Detox for dandruff problems

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Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 1164, Series of 2004

G-Plan Family Ties celebrates fun family moments

AT FIRST glance, it seemed like just another Sunday at the Glorietta Activity Center - kids running around the playground, teenagers admiring their new purchases, moms keeping an eye on their kids, while dads munch on a bite to eat - until one notices the ubiquitous G logo flashing all over the place. This wasn't any ordinary family day, it was G Plan Family Day, where having a G-Plan gives you guaranteed access to exclusive activities and promos for the family.

G Plan Family Day

ATE Hannah enthralls the kids with her storytelling skills.

Young children rushed to the mini-playground and arts area while their older siblings went in droves to the gaming booth, where they tried their hand at the latest Playstation 2 games. Various concessionaires offered free food samples and discounted items to all Globe subscribers and their families, but the most popular service by far was the G Plan family photo booth, which offered free family portraits printed on-the-spot and presented in a lovely blue picture frame.

Interactive games and programs were staged throughout the day. Storyteller Hannah Bernardino enthralled kids with her wacky rendition of contemporary children's stories. She was later joined onstage by actor/veejay JM Rodriguez in hosting the games portion. Teams consisting of two family members each participated in text-enhanced versions of popular party games like Pass the Message and Bring Me, while audience members delighted in participating in a text-based raffle. Various gift packs and household appliances such as rice cookers, microwave ovens and washing machines were awarded to the lucky contestants.

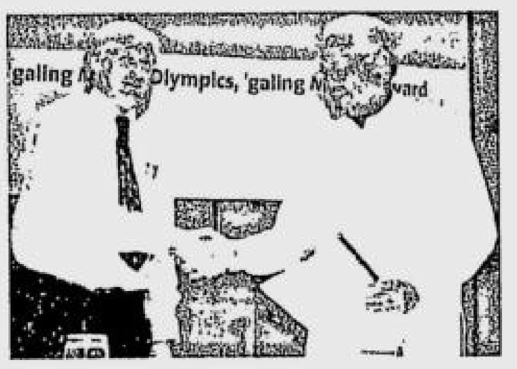
The day would not be complete without the parents getting to know more on how to get connected with their family even if they are away with G Plan Family Ties plans and services, which includes the breakthrough services Share-a-Load, Call and Text Collect, and Txt Bak Mo, Libre Ko. G-Plan Family Ties also offers the G-Flex Extension Plans, which allows existing G Plan or G Flex subscribers to extend the gift of G-Plan to their kids and other loved ones with low consumable monthly service fee from P250 to P500.

Plus, parents who will be availing of the extension plans until Oct. 31 also get to enjoy a discounted 2-way call rates as low as P3.15 within that period.

Bringing families closer together has always been one of Globe Handyphone's primary thrusts. G Plan Family Day celebrated the meaningful moments families spend with each other, and turned a simple trip to the mall into an enjoyable family bonding experience. All in all, the day was a rousing success, made possible by Globe!

MSI-DIGILAND, NORTEL NETWORKS AWARD BRONZE PARTNERSHIP

Nortel Networks Philippines, provider of networking, communication services and infrastructure to enterprises, in partnership with MSI-Digiland, the biggest distributor of information technology products in the Philippines recently identified and awarded Bronze Partnership to InfoBahn Communications Inc, Hytech Integrated Products Inc and Gemora Electronic Marketing and Services. The Bronze Partnership is a business opportunity to sell the leading products in communications bearing the Nortel brand, granted to selected technological resellers who achieved the international standards set by Nortel Networks. Present during the awarding were (from left) Armando Pascual, Nortel Networks channels director; David Concepcion, MSI-Digiland product manager for Nortel Networks; Sarah Regino, MSI-Digiland (Phils) sales and marketing manager for technology; Anna-Katharina Pasimio, Nortel Networks channels manager; Jay Bautista of Infobahn Communications; Marvin Peralta of Gemora Electronics, Ronnie Chua of Hytech; and Jimmy Go, MSI-Digiland (Phils) president and CEO.



UCC RENEWS SUPPORT TO HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

UCC has renewed its commitment to support the housing ministry of Habitat for Humanity Philippines. For over five years now, UCC has continuously supported Habitat affiliates in five major regions in the country by way of house construction, partnership in community development and masons training under the Holcim 'galing Mason program. Shown in photo are (left) Paul O'Callaghan, COO of UCC and Francis Ferrer, chair of Habitat Philippines during the MOA signing.

PHOTO BY RAFFY LERMA

NEWSPAPER RACK PROJECT

The newspaper rack project, a joint venture of the MMDA and NMCDAP, was recently launched in Monumento, Caloocan City with the turnover of the specially designed newspaper racks to various newspaper vendors in the area by MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando (center) and NMCDAP president Ramon Tapales (7th from right). A giant replica of the certificate of registration and identification card for all registered newspaper vendors was also presented by the two groups. Inquirer president and CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez (6th from right) lauded the project as an opportunity for newspaper vendors to increase sales by providing more access for readers to buy newspapers in the streets. Key officers and staff of other major publications were present during the affair.

AEI grants carpenter's wish of better eyesight

ERNESTO Manio, a carpenter, promised himself when he got married, that he would provide his family with a permanent home and give his children a good education. And through hard work he was able to afford a small house and lot that they can call their own in Purok 5, San Juan, Hagonoy in Bulacan. With his steady income as a carpenter, he had also been able to send his children to school. Until his eyesight slowly deteriorated to the point that he can no longer work.

But the 45-year old carpenter was not about to give up and break a promise. He wrote GMA 7's "Wish Ko Lang" to ask for whatever assistance the program could afford in order to bring his eyesight back. Immediately, "Wish Ko Lang" linked-up with the Asian Eye Institute at Rockwell Center, Makati. The Asian Eye Institute willingly offered its services and facilities to provide Manio the best eye treatment and care and thereby, help provide him and his family a better future.

After a thorough examination of his condition, Manio was advised to undergo two surgical and laser procedures. Under the capable hands of Dr. Amadeo A.S. Veloso, Jr., AEI's specialist in Retina and Vitreous Diseases and Dra. Ma. Imelda Yap-Veloso, AEI's specialist in Glaucoma, Manio's eyesight steadily improved.

Ernesto and his family was ecstatic a day after his last operation, and thanked AEI and "Wish Ko Lang" profusely for his improved vision. But unbeknownst to him, improved eyesight wasn't the only thing he received. "Wish Ko Lang" also provided him with a fishball and squidball cart; a "Wish Ko Lang" Sari-Sari Store; and two Educational Scholarships. With all these blessings, Ernesto would have no problem realizing his dream.

Witness Manio's eye surgery at the Asian Eye Institute, watch "Wish Ko Lang" at GMA7 today at 4 p.m.

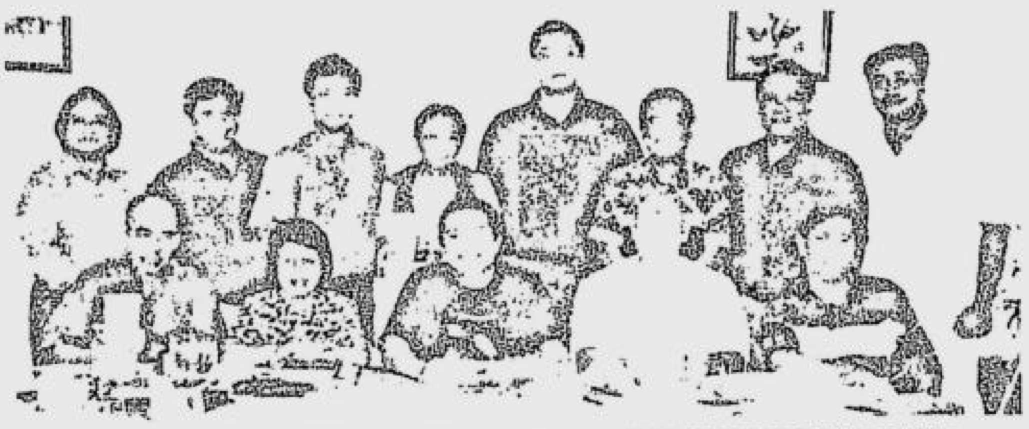
Bits Clips

Baleno Fiesta

THE LICEO de Baleno Alumni Scholarship Foundation is calling all alumni and residents of Baleno, Masbate to join in the celebration of the town's fiesta today. For details, call Ruben Cortes at 645-2462, Dr. Sergio Carandang at 871-6436 or 0920-671-7896, or Maricar Salivio Lukban at 942-6015 or 0917-897-0562.

Voice XML contest

TELIC Communications is launching its 3-month Voice XML contest open to college students and freelance developers in the Philippines. Nationwide Call for Convergence Voice XML Challenge 2004 starts today with an Information and Training Session at the Podium Deck, Globe Telecom Plaza 1, Pioneer cor Madison Streets, Mandaluyong City. Contest will commence on Jan. 16. Simply register online and have your application tested. To know more about the contest, check out www.callforconvergence.com or email contest@telic.net.

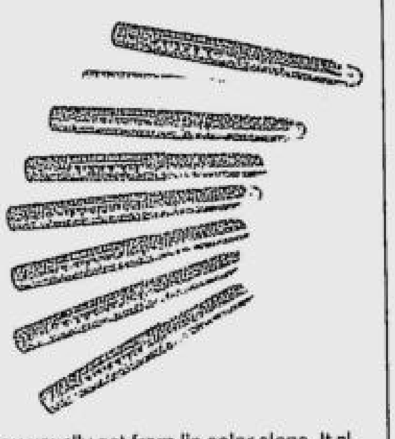


CPM SOCIETY FINALIZE PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT YEAR

The Certified Professional Marketer (CPM) Society of the Philippines met recently at the Philippine Columbian Club to finalize its program of activities for next year. The CPM Society is composed of marketing professionals committed to the continuing pursue of marketing excellence. Photo shows (from left, seated): Renato S. Esguerra, former PMA president; Julie Oconer-Lim, president, CPM Society of the Philippines; Jos Ortega, president, Philippine Marketing Association; JJ Roces, president, Asia Pacific Marketing Federation; and Hermie del Rosario, PMA vice president for education; (standing) Lydia marinas of the PMA Secretariat; and the following CPM's: Denis Gutierrez, 2nd vice president-external; Raffy Villanueva, 1st vice president-internal; Milette Zamora, PRO; Donald Lim, chair, ways and means; Dr. Nards Garcia, chair, international relations; lawyer Manjo Oyson, secretary general; and Edwin Mapanao, treasurer.

Product FILES

How to get the perfect pout



WITH Ever Bilena's new Advance Smoothlips, you can get that perfect pout in just one easy step. Imagine getting the softness you want from a lip moisturizer, the color you want from a lipstick, or the shine you crave for in a lip gloss, with a single swipe of this brilliant lip pen. Advance Smoothlips gives you the creamy feel of a lipstick plus the excellent full color coverage you usually get from lip color alone. It also gives you that perfectly glossy look that is usually established by applying additional lip shiners and has moisturizing care that prevents the lips from dryness, leaving the lips feeling soft and smooth. Advance Smoothlips stays on for hours without smudging or fading, and its pen-like form makes it easy to apply. The soft tip applicator assures clear contours without feathering, thus making the lips look more defined. The result is a fabulous looking pout. Advance Smoothlips is all-imported from Germany and comes in 8 lovely shades.

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Irrigation Administration, Region 13, Bancasi, Butuan City invites eligible bidders of the Drainage Improvement of Simulao River Irrigation System located at Trento, Agusan del Sur under GAA Fund-101 CY 2003 through competitive bidding under IRR-A of RA-9184, allocation under accounts payable scheme in accordance with the hereunder work packages

Package No.	Quantity (cu.m.)	Approved Budget for Contract to be bid	Maximum days to Complete	Contractor's Category
Package I LMC-Dr. 01-04	67,952	P 6,889,653.28	234	Medium A

Bidding Date : November 18, 2004 at 9:00 A.M.
Bidding Place : NIA, Regional 13 Office, Bancasi, Butuan City
Minimum Equipment Required (owned or leased)
Package I – 3 units backhoe excavator with bucket capacity of 0.70-1.0 cu m

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any eligible bidders starting October 26, 2004 upon a non-refundable payment of P2,000.00

A pre-bidding conference will be held on November 08, 2004 at NIA-13 Bancasi, Butuan City at 10:00 A.M.

All bids mus be accompanied by a Security Bid Bond any form of the following in a minimum amount in % of the Approved Budget for contract to be bid

1.	Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, bankdraft, or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	1% of ABC
2.	Bank Guarantee	1 ½ % of ABC
3.	Surety Bond	2 ½ % of ABC

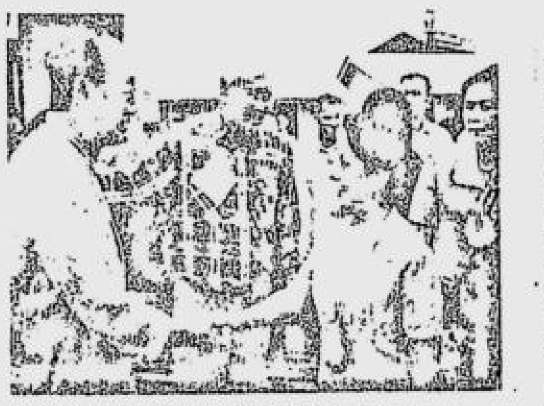
Bids will be opened promptly on the above bidding date in the presence of participating bidder/representative who choose to attend. For detailed information please call (085) 342-3000 or (085) 226-4954, E-mail: niacaraga@skyinet.net.

The Bids and Award Committee (BAC), NIA-Region 13, reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality assumed no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expenses incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the lowest calculated evaluated and responsive bid.

The eligibility requirements with Letter of Intent (LOI) shall be submitted to the BAC in a sealed eligibility envelope and shall be opened before the date of pre-bid conference and bid opening to determine the eligibility of prospective bidders

(Sgd.) JOHNNY V. EMMANUEL, CESO V
Regional Irrigation Manager

(PDI – October 16 & 22, 2004



RMHC CHAMPIONS GAWAD KALINGA HOUSING PROJECT

Ronald McDonald's House Charities (RMHC) was formally recognized as one of the seven champions of Gawad Kalinga Foundation at the Gawad Kalinga International Congress held at Fort Global last Oct. 2. George T. Yang, McDonald's president, attended the auspicious event, representing the RMHC. Photo shows President Arroyo touring the newly-built Gawad Kalinga model house, together with McDonald's president George T. Yang and Gawad Kalinga executive director Tony Meloto. To date, 43 houses were already built at the McDonald's Village in Hapay na Mangga in Taytay, Rizal, out of the 100 houses commitment of McDonald's. To continue its humanitarian mission and be able to sustain its keystone projects, RMHC donates part of its profits from the 'happy meal' sold, including resources gained from major fund-raising activities.

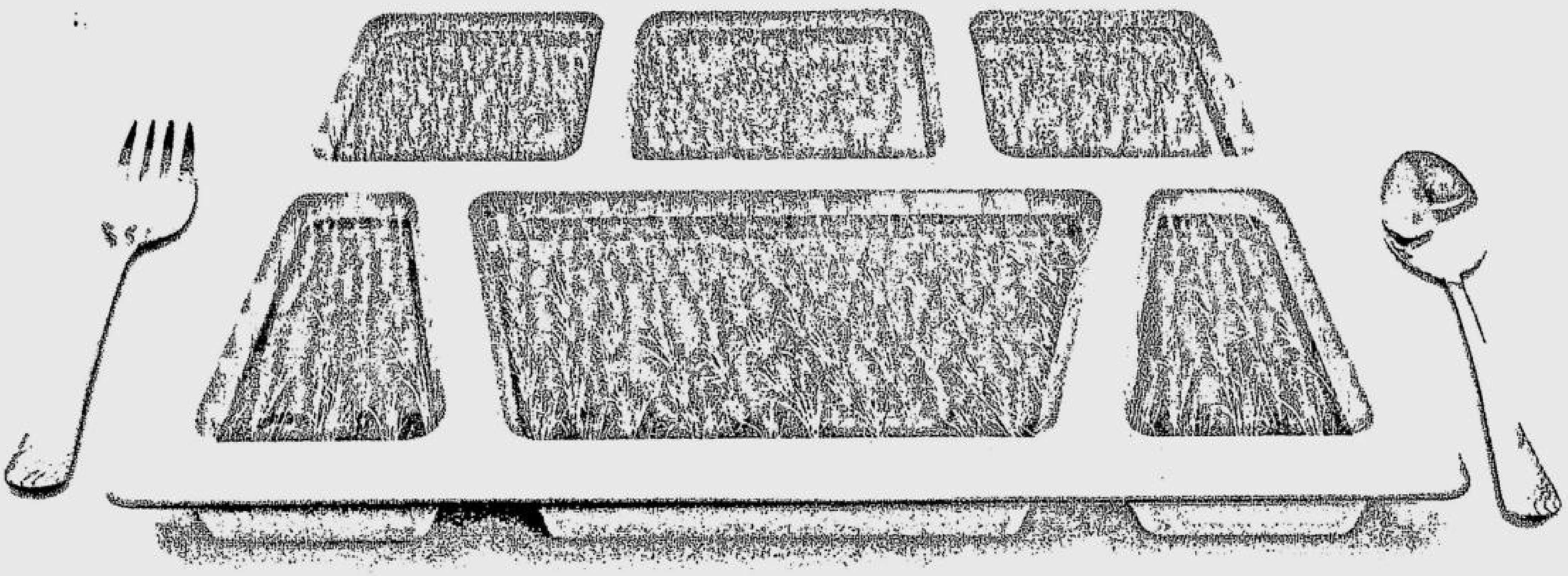
Araneta Center welcomes Taco Bell

TACO Bell, the world's No. 1 Mexican restaurant chain is finally coming to the Philippines! What a better place to launch the first flagship restaurant but in new, up market Gateway Mall at Araneta Center. A subsidiary of Yum! Brands Inc, Taco Bell is one of the largest restaurant chains in the United States, serving delicious Tacos, Burritos, its signature Quesadillas, Nachos plus other specialty items. Filipinos will definitely love Taco Bell, because it offers a wide variety of delicious food. In a cool ambiance, that combines a casual California attitude with fun and flavor of the great American west. "This is for people who enjoy variety and fun in their lives. Try us once and you'll crave for more! If you hunger for adventure, Taco Bell is the place to be!" says Isabel Pizarro, Taco Bell's marketing officer. In the United States, Taco Bell serves more than 35 million customers per week in over 6,500 restaurants. It also has more than 280 restaurants currently operating in Canada, Guam, South America, Puerto Rico, Europe, Asia and soon in the Philippines. Founded by Glen Bell, Taco Bell became a reality in 1962. The first Taco Bell restaurant was built in Downey, California. Taco Bell's concept is fun, Mexican inspired and food served fast! It is where you go to escape the everyday routine. So, take the taste of life at Taco Bell, opening soon at Gateway Mall.

Ovaltine
ProActive

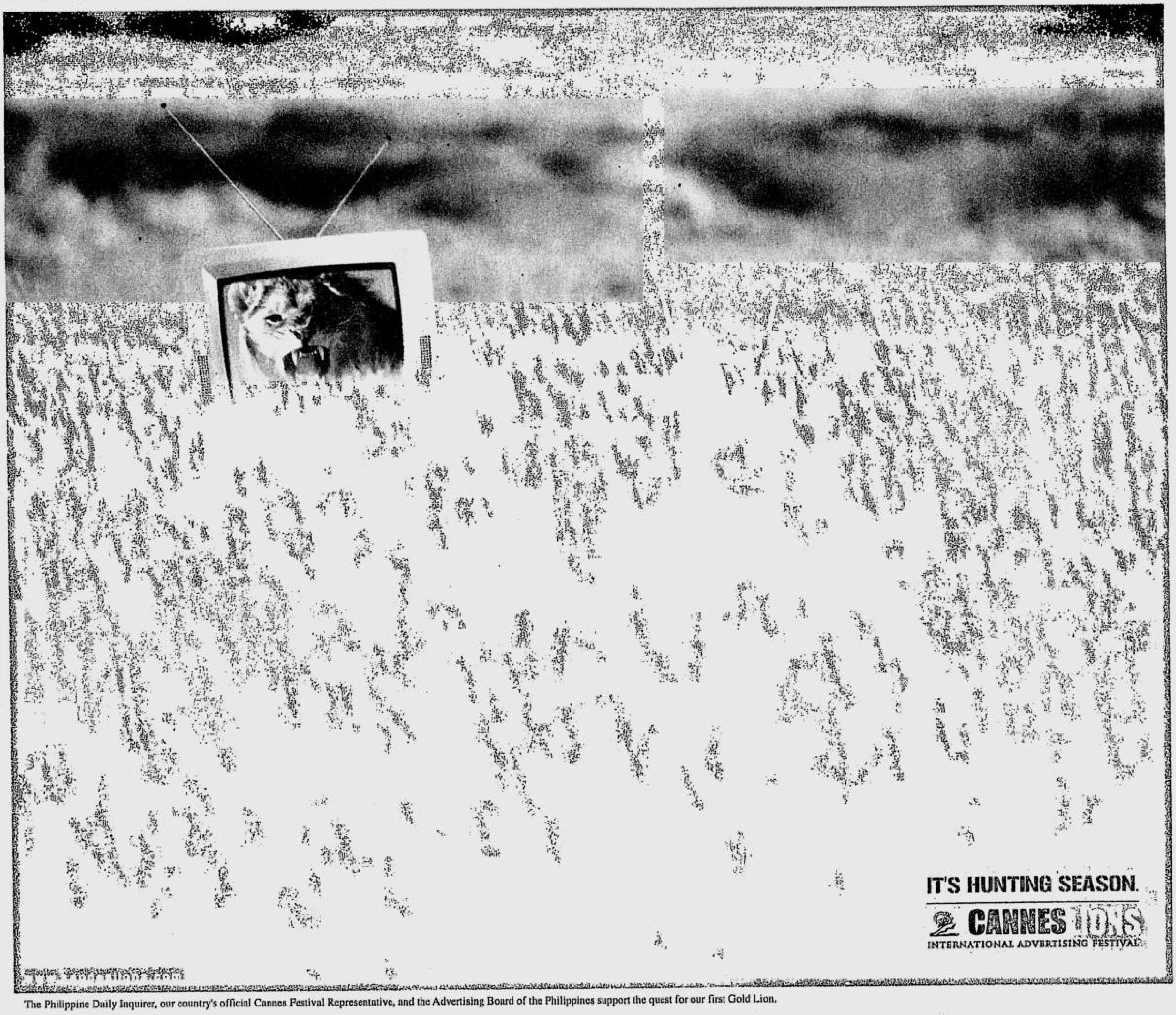
OVALTINE PROACTIVE LAUNCH

Ovaltine models show how young adults cope with the demands of everyday living as they strut down the ramp during the launch of new Ovaltine ProActive. The product launch cum fashion show featured models in power suits, sports wear and other attires depicting the active lifestyle of today's young adults, communicating the Ovaltine ProActive promise of providing optimum health and nutrition. New Ovaltine ProActive is a nutritious drink in a deliciously light chocolate flavor specially formulated for people who are always on the go. It contains the breakthrough Amino Pro-B formula-a unique combination of Amino Acids and Vitamin B Complex using the unique Mind-Enhancers and Body-Optimizers of Ovaltine - that helps restore tired muscles and beat stress. So whether they're faced with the challenges at work or at play, new Ovaltine ProActive will help them get ready for anything.



Channeling the excess water from our hydroelectric plant towards irrigating rice lands across Central Luzon will produce 9 million cavans of palay for at least 50 years. It's a solution we hope will save more Filipinos from going hungry. **Today is World Food Day. Let's do our share.**

CALENERGY
INTERNATIONAL LTD.


IT'S HUNTING SEASON.
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FirstPac gets ₱450M from MPC shares sale

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

HONG KONG conglomerate First Pacific Co. Ltd. has raised roughly P450 million from the sale of its 5 percent stake in local holding firm Metro Pacific Corp. (MPC).

The proceeds would be used to kickstart MPC's business plans and rehabilitate debt-ridden shipping firm Negros Navigation Co. (Nenaco), sources told the INQUIRER.

First Pacific recently sold 930.2 million MPC shares, equivalent to 5 percent of the subsidiary's 18.6 billion outstanding shares.

First Pacific raised funds to back up its commitment to provide its subsidiaries with the financial muscle needed to pursue projects and financial recovery programs.

Nenaco needs to raise P130 million to kickstart the rehabilitation of its shipping fleet.

Aside from funding Nenaco, part of the proceeds would also be used to pursue MPC's tollway project.

In a related development, MPC has offered to buy out minority shareholders of Nenaco at 16 centavos a share, it said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

MPC owns 2.9 billion shares of Nenaco or roughly 97.2 percent of the company.

Nenaco last closed at 37 centavos a share before its trading was suspended in March, following the approval of the shipping firm's petition for a suspension of debt payments.

MPC's tender offer was set from Oct. 15 to Nov. 17.

MPC also approved the delisting of Nenaco to allow the shipping firm to pursue its rehabilitation plan.

Nenaco is preparing its petition for delisting or its withdrawal as member from the PSE.

Abenson targets 10% growth in 2004 revenue to ₱6.6B

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LEADING appliance and consumer electronics retailer Abenson Inc. expects to post P6.6 billion in sales this year following its entry into the high-end technology savvy market.

"We are expecting an overall sales growth of at least 10 percent this year," said Jackie Ong, Abenson business development officer.

"With 15 percent of the local market, we posted a total of P6 billion in revenues in 2003," Ong said on the sidelines of the launch yesterday of Abenson's flagship store at the Greenbelt 4 in Makati City.

Called Avant Abenson, it is the Abenson group's 73rd branch and was geared for the high-end market segment.

She said Abenson had two more stores opening within the year.

Ong said the company decided on a branch that focuses on big-ticket buyers to uplift the standards of shopping in the country.

"While we have agreements with our suppliers to get the first crack at launching their latest products in the Philippines, it does not necessarily mean it is more expensive in Avant Abenson compared to other stores," she added.

Ong explained that Avant Abenson was reserving 20 percent to 30 percent of its displays for lower-value products such as blenders, flat irons and electric fans.

Occupying two floors with a total area of 1,500 square meters, the store features the latest models of appliances and gadgets from LG, Sony, Philips, Panasonic, Carrier and other well known brands.

Included in the displays are a TV refrigerator, "the world's largest" plasma TV at 63 inches, a palm-sized "tapeless" video camera recorder which can store an hour's worth of DVD-quality video or up to five hours of VCD-quality video, high-definition TV home theater systems and camera-direct photo printers.

Bayantel pays ₱150M in interest

By Clarissa S. Batino

BAYAN Telecommunications Inc., the phone company of the Lopez Group, has settled almost P150 million in interest on its outstanding debt and was set to make another quarterly payment by the end of the year.

Bayantel chief finance officer Salvador Tirona said the company submitted to the Pasig Regional Trial Court and to its receiver a term sheet to implement the debt rehabilitation plan, which the court approved in June.

"It is a working document which is based on the court-approved rehab. If there are objections, and as long as the objections are consistent with what the court provided, then we would comply," said Tirona in an interview.

The Lopez-owned telecom firm is restructuring about $477 million in debt, of which $277 million is owed to banks and $200 million to bondholders.

Obligations to banks are secured or backed by collateral, unlike the bonds.

But some of the phone company's creditors objected to what they claimed was Bayantel's "unilateral approach" to debt rehabilitation.

They said that court-appointed receiver Remigio Noval should implement the terms of the rehabilitation plan, not Bayantel.

Avenue Asia, a majority holder of Bayantel's $200-million bond, said that the term sheet submitted by Bayantel was "not a court-approved rehabilitation plan."

The company said in a statement that the terms dictated by Bayantel were not binding.

"Advisors to Avenue Asia have been informed that the receiver has not acted and will not act on Bayantel's term sheet. The receiver intends to file a revised rehabilitation plan within the next couple of weeks," the statement said.

"It is highly improper for Bayantel to unilaterally attempt to dictate the new provisions of its obligations under rehabilitation, particularly so when it is the Receiver's Rehabilitation Plan, as revised and approved by the Court that will govern Bayantel's obligations going forward," the statement said.

Tirona, on the other hand, insisted that the term sheet followed the rehabilitation plan.

"They could say the term sheet was unilateral but all the company is doing is making a payment in good faith. We paid close to P150 million in interest in September and the next would be in December," he said.

Tirona added that creditors should stop complaining because what mattered was that Bayantel was starting to pay interest on its debt.

The Lopez-owned phone company stopped making interest payments its creditors in 2001 due to mounting losses.

The company reported that its subscriber base had grown to 270,000 as of the first half, up 16,000 or 6.3 percent from 254,000 in the first quarter.

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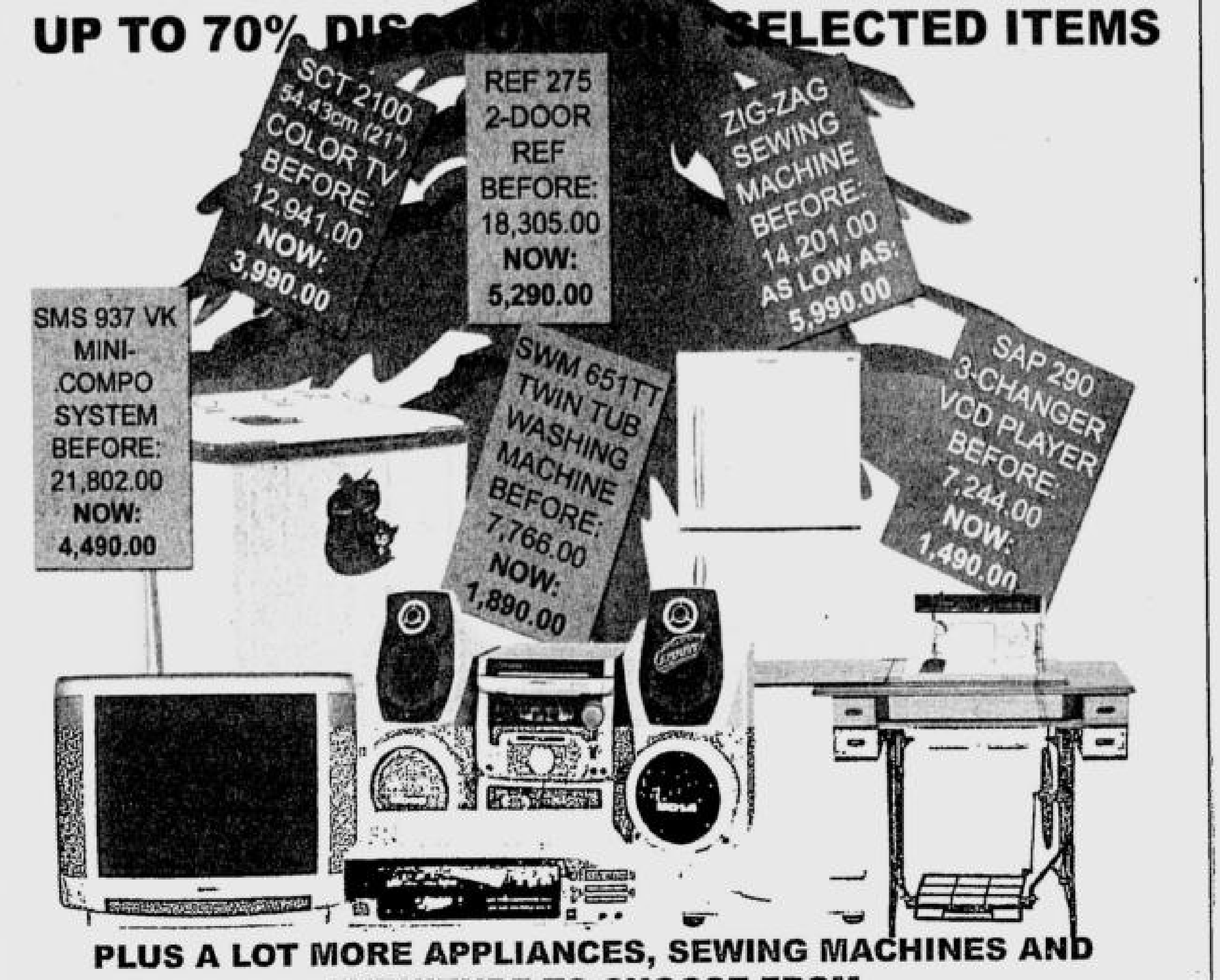

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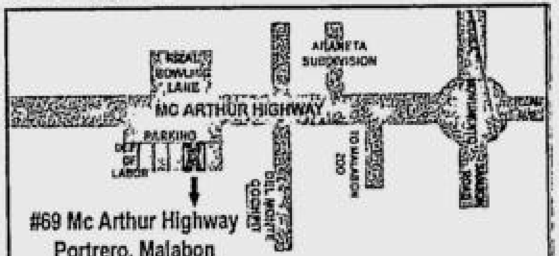

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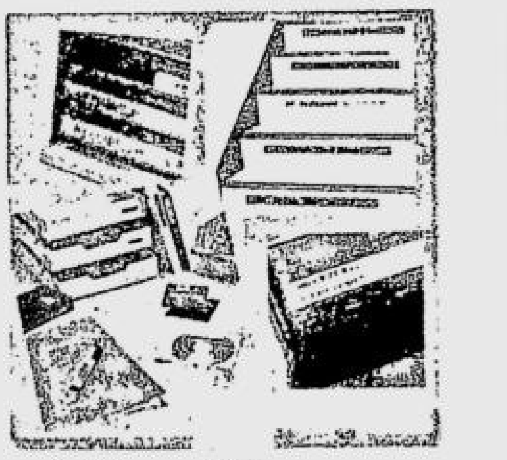

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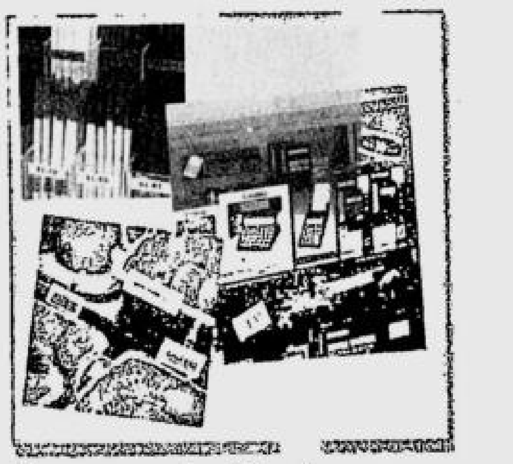

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STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.5	18.5	30,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	47	47	46.5	47	675,400
China Banking Corp.	530	530	530	530	5,190
Citystate Savings Bank	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	42.5	43	42.5	42.5	55,600
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.44	0.45	0.44	0.45	1,560,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28.5	27.5	28	80,200
Philippine National Bank	22.75	22.75	22.75	22.75	5,000
Phil. Savings Bank	28	28	28	28	2,700
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	2,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	3,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	150,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1700	1700	1655	1665	1,000
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20.75	20.75	20.25	20.25	45,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.32	1.34	18,161,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1040	1045	1040	1040	27,860
Ipeople Inc.	1.66	1.7	1.66	1.7	36,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	3,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.038	0.038	0.036	0.037	700,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	100,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.46	2.48	1,025,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.46	0.49	0.43	0.43	1,090,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1440	1440	1420	1425	44,800
Ivantage Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.71	0.72	1,430,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	178,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	16	16.25	15.75	16.25	48,100
Manila Electric Co. B	23.5	24	23.5	24	207,500
Petron Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.8	2.8	675,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.16	2.16	145,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.12	1,655,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	5,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	25,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	100,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	1,100,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	25,000
Union Cement Corp.	2.46	2.48	2.44	2.44	3,461,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	30	30	30	20,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	27.5	28.5	27.5	28	99,600
San Miguel Corp. A	57.5	57.5	57.5	57.5	8,400
San Miguel Corp. B	72.5	72.5	72.5	72.5	13,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	300,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	87,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	3,000,000
Ayala Corp	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.3	1,059,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.55	3.55	3.5	3.55	1,270,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	2,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.007	0.0065	0.007	48,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.31	0.34	0.31	0.34	900,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	51,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.94	0.94	0.93	0.93	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.53	0.53	1,510,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.14	0.155	0.14	0.155	6,610,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	630,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	350,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.34	2.42	2.34	2.42	2,128,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.03	0.032	0.03	0.031	3,600,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	310,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	4	4	4	4	10,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	27	27	27	27	126,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	100,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	400,000
Ionics Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.74	1.74	160,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.08	2.08	1.98	1.98	878,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.4	1.42	1.4	1.42	350,000
Megaworld Corp	1.22	1.22	1.18	1.2	2,378,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	50,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.44	0.45	0.42	0.43	103,630,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	30,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	350,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	40,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.155	0.15	0.155	2,150,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1,000
Jardine Davies Inc.	37	37	37	37	100
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	13,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	2,500,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.96	1.04	0.96	1.04	1,100,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.65	0.7	0.65	0.7	270,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	1,300,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	20.75	20.75	20	20	984,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,700
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	5,400
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.6	6.8	6.6	6.8	1,856,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	160,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	6,350,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.13	0.135	2,400,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	650,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	8,960,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	20,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.12	1.14	1.12	1.12	6,207,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.205	0.21	0.205	0.205	160,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.49	0.49	1,840,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	1,000
SM Development Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	23,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7	7.1	6.9	6.9	1,168,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	340,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.27	450,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	15,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3.05	3.45	3	3.35	453,000
Benguet Corp. A	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4	82,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	2,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.225	0.25	0.215	0.25	22,180,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.29	0.31	0.29	0.31	13,430,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.015	0.019	0.015	0.018	1,334,800,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.018	0.022	0.018	0.021	1,350,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	124,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	8,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.44	0.53	0.44	0.52	10,610,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.49	0.58	0.49	0.58	7,080,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.13	0.17	0.13	0.17	3,580,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.014	0.012	0.013	34,600,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0046	0.005	0.0046	0.005	418,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0048	0.005	0.0048	0.005	86,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	30,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	48,500,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	46,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.18	0.22	0.18	0.22	1,950,000

DISCLOSURES

MATSUSHITA Electric Philippines Corp. will hold a special stockholders' meeting on Nov. 25, 9 a.m. at the company's Human Development Center, Ortigas Avenue Extension, Taytay, Rizal. Agenda of the meeting includes ratification of the planned change in its corporate name to Panasonic Manufacturing Philippines Corp.

* * *

GRAND Plaza Hotel Corp. declared cash dividends of P0.20 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of Nov. 3 and will be payable not later than Nov. 20. The company's general manager, Yam Kit Sung, was appointed assistance compliance officer.

* * *

ASIATRUST Development Bank Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 19, 2 p.m. at the 14/F, Bahia Room of Hotel Inter-Continental Manila, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Oct. 25 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

VICTORIAS Milling Co. Inc. disclosed that its Refinery House started milling operations last Sept. 22 while the VMC Raw House started its operations last Sept. 27.

* * *

EAST Asia Power Resources Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 18, 10 a.m. at the Manila Polo Club, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Oct. 28 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

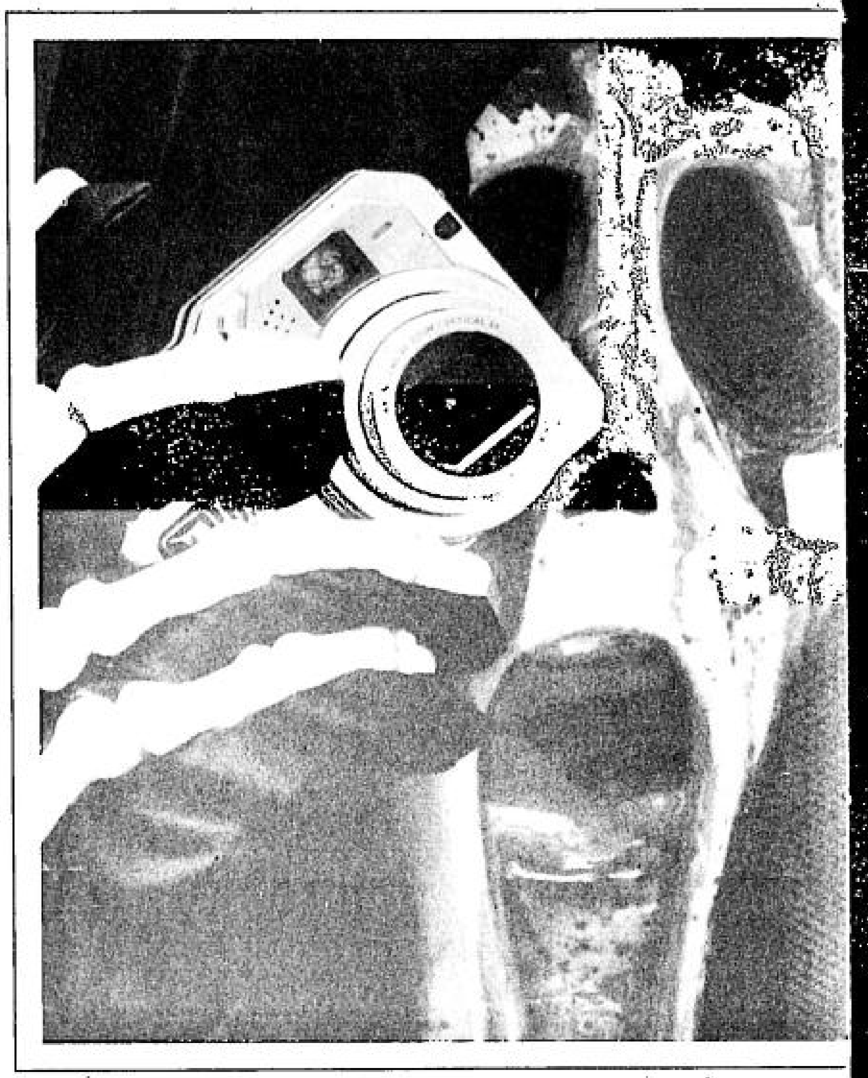
ALFREDO Carrera, Philippine Long Distance Co.'s vice president, sold his 2,100 PLDT shares at P1,480 each.

* * *

SEMIRARA Corp. bought and reverted to treasury 359.27 fractional shares resulting from its recent decrease in capital stock. All stockholders with fractional shares after the decrease in capital stock may claim payment for these shares at the company's office, 2/F of DMCI Plaza, Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City.

* * *

AFTER **Ebecom Holdings Inc.'s** change in corporate name to Aries Prime Resources Inc., the company's stock trading symbol will be changed to APR from EBE on Oct. 21. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***



CURRENCIES

October 15, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.806972	1.000000	56.4430
Japan	Yen	0.007363	0.009124	0.5150
United Kingdom	Pound	1.450613	1.797600	101.4619
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.103573	0.128348	7.2443
Switzerland	Franc	0.648483	0.803600	45.3576
Canada	Dollar	0.642443	0.796115	44.9351
Singapore	Dollar	0.479342	0.594001	33.5272
Australia	Dollar	0.589418	0.730407	41.2264
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.140624	2.652661	149.7241
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.215193	0.266667	15.0515
Brunei	Dollar	0.477923	0.592242	33.4279
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000089	0.000110	0.0062
Thailand	Baht	0.019488	0.024149	1.3630
UAE	Dirham	0.219716	0.272272	15.3678
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.239200	69.9442
Argentina	Peso	0.271708	0.336700	19.0044
Brazil	Real	0.282158	0.349650	19.7353
Denmark	Kroner	0.134484	0.166653	9.4064
India	Rupee	0.017615	0.021829	1.2321
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.212389	0.263193	14.8554
Mexico	New Peso	0.070877	0.087831	4.9574
New Zealand	Dollar	0.549859	0.681385	38.4594
Norway	Kroner	0.122230	0.151467	8.5493
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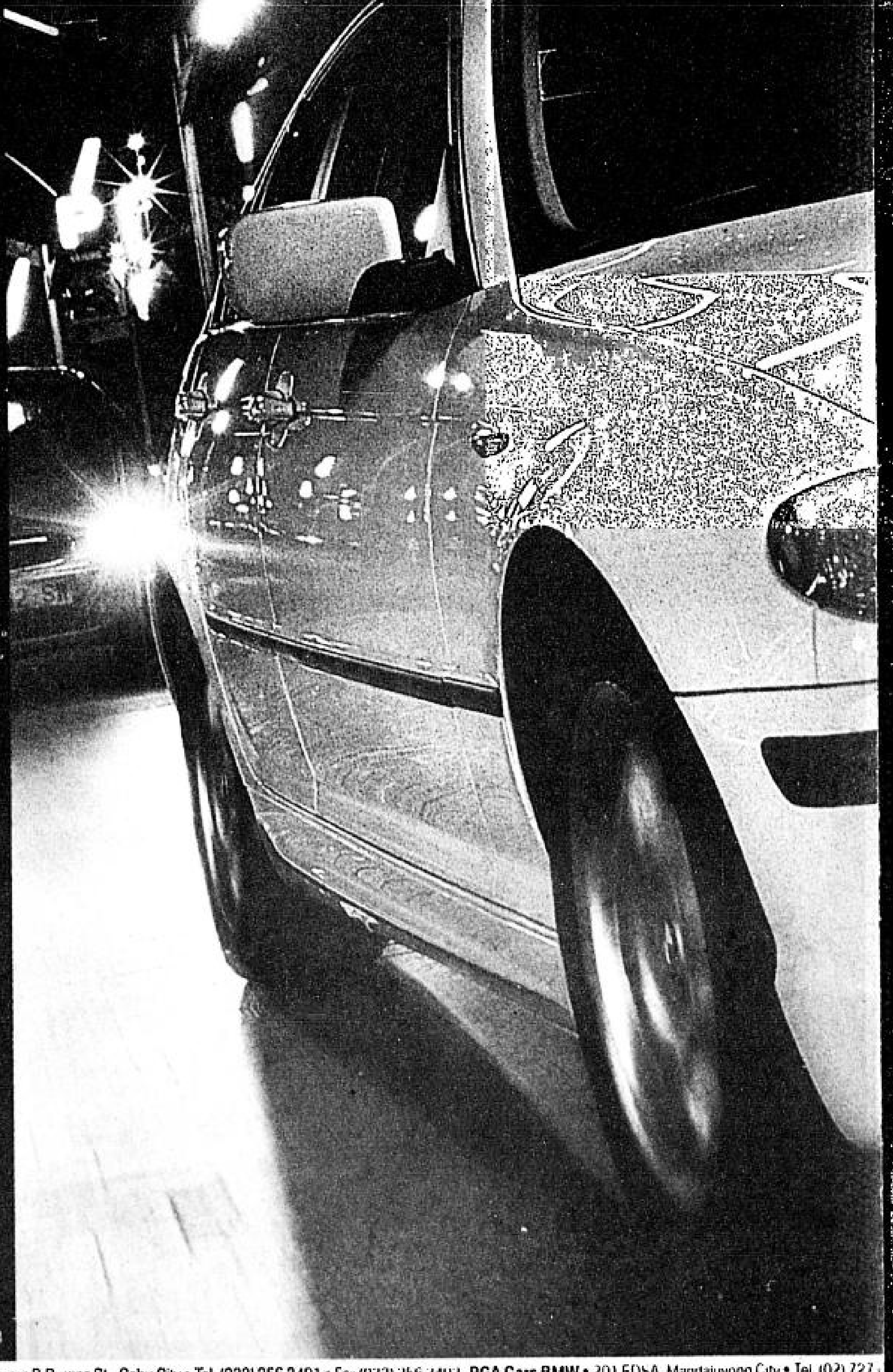

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A SALESPERSON dressed as a ghost ahead of Halloween promotes digital products in Hong Kong, Oct. 15. Confidence about the economy and rising employment together with a tourism boom are supporting the retail sector, although growth has been slowing.

REUTERS

$55 A BARREL

World oil prices close to record highs

SINGAPORE—Oil prices eased on Friday, but still within sight of the $55-mark as traders feared time was running out to top up low heating oil supplies before winter.

US light, sweet crude oil futures were at $54.58 a barrel, down 18 cents after having ended on Thursday within a stone's throw of a new all-time high of $54.88 a barrel.

London Brent crude futures slipped 14 cents to $49.95 a barrel.

"We may get a bit of profit-taking here, but there's a real supply fear and I think prices will hold," a London-based futures broker said.

Oil has soared nearly $20 in less than four months, lately spurred by a lingering US Gulf production outage that has led to a global shortage of light, easy-to-refine crude oil, coveted for its ability to make transport and heating fuels.

That shortfall has also impeded refiners' ability to build up US heating oil stocks, which are now 10 percent below last year at 50 million barrels, weekly government data showed on Thursday. Last week supplies were only 6 percent below 2003.

Total distillate supplies also fell to 8 percent below last year, while crude oil stocks rose over the week but remained 3.6 percent under year-ago levels.

In the Gulf of Mexico, around 470,000 barrels per day (bpd) of production remains shut more than a month after Hurricane Ivan hit the area, with some losses expected to linger beyond the end of the year, the government's resource agency said this week.

US heating oil futures soared to a record $1.55 a gallon on Thursday and were trading at $1.5430 a gallon on Friday.

Supplies in the US Central Atlantic region, a major distribution point for the heavy consuming Northeast, are running particularly below average and may have trouble rising before cold weather causes demand to spike.

"If, indeed, heating oil inventories have peaked for this key region, then there is little likelihood that heating oil prices will ease significantly this winter," the Energy Information Administration said on Thursday.

The shortage is also evident in other major regions, with consumers in Germany, Europe's biggest market, keeping supplies of heating oil well below last year due to high prices.

German end-user tanks were only 60 percent full at the start of this month versus 68 percent last year, traders said, while in Japan, the world's third-biggest energy user, kerosene supplies are more than 15 percent below last year.

As fears of a winter fuel squeeze dominate traders' near-term perspective, signs are emerging that China's massive oil thirst—a major factor in this year's price spike—could slacken as the government moves to prevent the booming economy overheating.

Double-digit oil demand growth from China, now the world's second-biggest importer, took the world by surprise this year, stretching Opec supplies to near their limit.

But the West's energy watchdog said the surge in fuel costs was encouraging conservation measures and switching away from oil. Traders in London said major Asian refiners had scaled back purchases of African oil this month.

Worries over Nigeria, the fifth-biggest supplier to the United States, also eased after a general strike that paralyzed businesses but did not disrupt oil flows ended on Thursday. *Reuters*

sian stocks jittery on record oil, steadier metal prices

GAPORE—Asian shares were mostly dy on Friday as record oil prices lifted rgy stocks and miners rebounded on nger metals markets, but Tokyo shares for a sixth day on worries the cost of le would hurt the economy.

uropean shares were set to track lossn Wall Street amid fears over the im- of high oil prices on the global econo-

hares in Samsung Electronics, Asia's t valuable technology company, fell one percent after it reported earnings ne with figures leaked to Reuters last k.

Samsung is still making money, but its nings are deteriorating, and the IT (innation technology) cycle does not look d for the next couple of quarters," said ey Choi, a fund manager at Alpha As-Management.

il slipped a touch to $54.57 a barrel, just half a percent off a record high of $54.88 hit on Thursday following data showing another drop in fuel stocks ahead of the northern hemisphere winter.

"Oil prices remain a concern and it seems that US stocks won't rise significantly before the US presidential election next month," said Albert Lin, vice president at Hotung Securities in Taiwan.

The dollar eased on data showing the US trade deficit widened in August to its second-highest level on record.

Bonds rose after US stocks fell, with traders awaiting a speech from Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan later in the day.

Tokyo's Nikkei stock average closed down half a percent at 10,982.95, led by more than one percent fall in chip equipment firms Tokyo Electron and Advantest.

An MSCI index of Asia Pacific shares outside Japan was little changed at 0630 GMT as gains in energy stocks offset falls in tech shares.

Chinese oil firms CNOOC Ltd. and PetroChina rose 0.6 percent in morning trade in Hong Kong.

In South Korea, Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd., the world's largest maker of memory chips, dropped 1.6 percent.

Its rivals LG Electronics Inc. and LG Philips LCD jumped 5.2 percent and 3 percent respectively.

Samsung said quarterly profit jumped 46 percent from a year ago on better memory chip earnings but fell 14 percent from the previous quarter.

South Korea's benchmark index fell 0.6 percent.

Hong Kong stocks were steady, but Hutchison Telecommunications International Ltd. fell over 4 percent on its trading debut.

Taiwan memory maker Nanya Technologies tumbled 4.7 percent, helping to drag the benchmark index 0.2 percent lower.

Fears over the impact of record oil prices on corporate profits hurt exporters, with Japan's motoring sub-index down 0.7 percent.

Australia and Singapore showed resistance to high oil and a drop in global stocks on Thursday, rising between 0.3 and 0.5 percent respectively.

BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto each rose more than one percent in Australia, while Japan's Sumitomo Metal Mining Co. Ltd. gained 1.4 percent after tumbling 6 percent the previous day.

The rises came as copper and aluminum edged up in London Metal Exchange trade, suggesting a pause to a slide that has stripped 15 percent from the value of copper this week and nearly 8 percent from aluminum. *Reuters*

US trade deficit at 2nd highest level

WASHINGTON—The trade deficit jumped to the second-highest level in history as surging demand for foreign oil swamped a small gain in US exports, the government reported. America's trade gap with China hit an all-time high as retailers stocked up on cell phones, toys and televisions in preparation for Christmas sales.

The worse-than-expected trade performance in August—a deficit of $54 billion—represented a 6.9 percent widening from July's trade gap of $50.5 billion. The record monthly deficit was set in June at $55 billion.

Exports, helped by a rise in shipments of commercial aircraft and record foreign sales of American cars and auto parts, rose by a slight 0.1 percent to $96 billion in August.

However, this improvement was overwhelmed by a 2.5 percent surge in imports to a record $150.1 billion as America's foreign oil bill climbed to the highest level in history. The average price for crude oil imports in August jumped to a 23-year high of $36.37 per barrel.

Analysts said Thursday's bad news on trade will only get worse in coming months given that oil prices have continued to soar, with crude oil hitting a new record of $54.76 per barrel Thursday.

"The skyrocketing oil prices are sucking the wind out of the economy," said Joel Naroff, chief economist at Naroff Economic Advisors. "And the worst is yet to come."

In a second economic report, the Labor Department said the number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits rose by 15,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted level of 352,000.

The four-week moving average of claims, which smoothes out weekly changes, rose by 4,000 to a seven-month high of 352,000.

The jobless claims report reflects a labor market that is continuing to disappoint economists' expectations. The country added a lower-than-expected 96,000 jobs in September as the unemployment rate held steady at 5.4 percent. **AP**

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Printing and Supply of Professional Identification Cards (PRC ID Cards)	P15,000,000.00 Not less than 500,000 pcs. At P31.00 per card	November 3, 2004 At 10.00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	P1,000.00
Printing and Supply of Computerized Application Forms (CAFs)	P313,600.00 Not less than 180,229 pcs. At P1.74 per sheet Of Bookpaper	November 3, 2004 At 2:00 p.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	P1,000.00
Printing and Supply of OMR ID/Answer Sheets	P3,644,200.00 Not less than 1,370,000 pcs. At P2.66 per sheet Of OCR paper	November 4, 2004 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	P1,000.00

Only bidders registered with the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) for procurement of goods shall be allowed to participate in the bidding process. Bidders may obtain the list of the registration requirements for procurement of goods at the Office of the BAC Chairperson, Commissioner Leonor Tripon-Rosero, 2nd floor, PRC Main Bldg., starting on **October 18, 2004**. Deadline for submission of registration requirements shall be at 5:00 p.m. on **October 29, 2004**. Issuance of Certification of registration to bidders for procurement of goods shall be on **November 4, 2004**.

Bid forms and the Terms of Reference (TOR) may be obtained by interested bidders starting on **October 18, 2004** from the Office of the BAC Chairperson with a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00. Prospective bidders for the printing and supply of OMR ID/Answer Sheets are required to make a presentation of the process in reading the OMR ID/Answer Sheets using their equipment, on **November 4, 2004** at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

All particulars relative to the registration, eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids, and awards of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act (GRPA), and its implementing rules and regulations.

The Commission reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract if there is a prima facie evidence of collusion between the officials or employees of the Commission and/or between the BAC and any of the bidders, or if the collusion is between or among the bidders themselves, or between a bidder and a third party, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies or tends to restrict, suppress or nullify competition; if the BAC is found to have failed in following the prescribed bidding procedures; or for any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the Government.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) ALCESTIS M. GUIANG
Chairperson

(PDI–Oct. 16 & 23, 2004)

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

Bloomingdale Plaza
Pasig 110, 50, 195m² Infront of Rizal Provincial Capitol Call Amy T633-3155

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

COLUMBIA CRYSTAL 2BR 1TB 44.72m² 0928-5539489 6789271 P1.8M Negotiable

OTHER REAL ESTATE

REALTORS/SEMINAR

Brokers Review 4382966

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

03CRV MT LykNu 780T 0917-5251951

HYUNDAI

01 STAREX(MIL)slightly used 99 HONDA City (EXI 1.5) Hyper 1st owned 7122072

ISUZU

Passenger Van (02)-9256493 0917-3735739 P600OTH

SUBARU

96'SUBARU LEGACYWGN 250K 545-4819 / 917-272-8547

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Pajero Land Cruiser Surf Delica Vanette Trooper Terrano Town-Lite Ace Rvr Elf Canter etc Finance T-in 9120647 ; 09178342020

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

PARTS & ACCESSORIES

QUICK SERVICE!
8am-7pm
YOKOHAMA GOODYEAR BRIDGESTONE MOTOLITE ORIENTAL Mobil Lubricants
CREDIT CARDS HONORED!
FREE AFTER-SALES SERVICE!
RUBBER VOLT
36 West Av QC 3716783
115 Mind. Av QC 9291514

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

Sunflower Transport Hi-Ace Coaster 631-3496 0919-3220871

BENZ Jaguar Lincoln 6825922

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

NISSAN Urvan 0917-5444721

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

STAREX MB100 HIACE 8277135

Toyco U Drive w/ Driver All Kinds Cars Van Revo Dly. Wk.Mo. Rental 8023021-22

VANS & MATIC CARS 7297378

ABC RENT A CAR
NEW CARS & VANS
PAJERO • HI-ACE
REVO • VIOS • ALTIS • STAREX
CRLA • CRV • LYNX • 536-8822
303-9789 • 426-2278 • 426-4084

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1-2% Car Loan 0917-8161276

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 533-8254

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/out taking car 6567685

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

Sale/Rental/Service 8014494

BUY/SELL

CAP/ PRUD PLANS 09177939632

GARAGE SALE

40 SUNRISE HILL ST
NEW MLA ROLLING HILLS
OCT 16 7-5PM OCT 17 7-1PM

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Control weight now 3758988

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Kawai Piano Tall Uprght Lyk New Blk 55T 874-0601

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT
ELITE PIANO CENTER
Almost New:TERMS-7213124

OTHER EQUIPMENT

BOILER, FULL AUTOMATIC
SLIGHTLY USED CAP 800KG
P300T 3619053 3640690

PETS

Asia Pro K-9 Dog School
B.Malinois Pup 4m/2f 4158430

Dog Trainer 0919-2050952

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

PCCI
327th PCCI & 328th PCCI
ALL-BREEDS DOGSHOWS
ORTIGAS TOWN CENTER
JULIA VARGAS CORNER MERALCO AVE., PASIG CITY
UNDER INT'L JUDGES
MR. ICHIRO ISHIKAWA
(Japan)
MR. FUJIHATA TOMIO
(Japan)
STRICTLY NO ADDENDUM
SHOW SCHEDULE
SATURDAY
October. 16, 2004
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Registration and Judging of Sporting Grp & Terrier Grp
12:30 PM - 1:00 PM
Registration and Judging of Hound Grp/Toy Grp
SUNDAY
October. 17, 2004
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Registration & Judging of Non-Sporting Grp & Herding Grp
12:30 PM - 5:00 PM
Registration & Judging of Working Group
CORPORATE SPONSORS:

PETS

PHIL DOG SCHOOLS
Trains w/Full Guarantee Off-Leashed & Even By Signal Only Call 721-3736

ROTTWEILER PUPS 5251916

WANTED TO BUY

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SECONDO AYALA CENTER-8940282
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LOW 5% INTEREST

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ROLEX+OTHERS
& Other Swiss Watches
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5633742 0917-8473744

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7220433 • 4123543

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

Victory Pawnshop at 45 Bonifacio Market, Kalookan City will hold an auction sale of all expired items on Oct. 26, 2004 at 10:00 AM Mr. Vicente Zamora - Auctioneer

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

Virra Mall Pawnshop at Emerald Lane Ground Floor Virra Mall, San Juan will hold an auction sale of all expired items on Oct. 26, 2004 at 11:00 AM Mr. Vicente Zamora - Auctioneer

ANNOUNCEMENT

Notice Is Hereby Given That The Estate Of The Late Zacarias C. Hilliado who died on December 29,1998 at Makati Medical Center,Makati City Had Been Settled By His Heirs In Deed of Extrajudicial Settlement of Estate With Sale. Subscribed and Acknowledged before Atty. Perfecto L. Dimayuga Notary Public for and In the City of Makati per Doc. No. 406; Page No. 83 Book No. L1; Series of 2004.(PDI-Oct.16,23,30,2004)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of ISIDRO MONTES was self-adjudicated to heir before Notary Public Juan C. Siapno, Jr. of San Fabian, Pangasinan per Doc. No. 11, Page No. 3, Book No. V, Series of 2004.
(PDI-Oct. 16, 23 & 30, 2004)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

A team of Entrepreneurs will be visiting Naga City & Makati to introduce an Int'l Business model that's expanding fast. If interested text @ 0927-5127468.

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inc Income PT upto 20T/mo373253!

RTW Consign 09167940002

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Security Agency & Cosmetic Surgery / Derma Clinic
631-3496 • 0919-3220871

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

SECRETARY - 5'5' Height 19-25 yrs. old, Speak English Well, Computer Lit. 687-7292

Wanted Academic Tutor for Elem/HS: G'hills SJ 633-1710 to 11

MALE/FEMALE

BUSINESS ASSOCIATE
Earn P3,000up weekly
18yrs old above, willing to be trained, No experience req'd
FREE Orientation at Rm 302 Sunrise Condo, Ortigas Av SJ
Call Patty 681-5665
Jay 0927-9645771
Brendon 0917-7499447

CAREGIVER T-5280747

SALES AGENTS 0917-8398865

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS COMMISSION
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) is inviting all interested, duly registered qualified persons, natural or juridical, with core competence in the delivery of integrated and on-line information system and solutions, to apply for eligibility and submit bid proposal for the "NLRC Case Management System (NLRC-CMS)" project.

The project is for the design, development and installation of computer-based solution and network systems (including the supply of hardware, peripherals and networking facilities and conduct of appropriate training) that would store, process and maintain a repository of all cases filed with the NLRC and its regional branches, such as critical case information details (e.g. nature of the case, parties involved, case status and case disposition details), adjudication reports, and searchable data base of all labor laws, rules, regulations and jurisprudence that shall be made available to authorized users online.

The approved budget for the contract in the amount of Thirty Nine Million One Hundred Two Thousand (P39,102,000.00) pesos, *excluding* the cost of internet connectivity, is sourced from the E-Government Fund (Sec. 68, General Provisions, R.A. 9206). The winning bidder is expected to complete the project in eight (8) months from notice to proceed.

All interested parties are invited to submit their Letter of Intent (LOI) to, and procure the list of eligibility and short listing requirements from, the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) – Secretariat, Bidding documents, including the terms of reference, shall be made available only to eligible bidders. For any inquiry, contact Emilio G. Santos, BAC Secretariat Head, tel. no. 7817871; fax No. 7407733; e-mail address: info@nlrc.dole.gov.ph or nlrcmis@yahoo.com.

All bidders shall be subjected to eligibility and short-listing procedure approved by the BAC.

The determination of the winning bidder shall be based on the Highest Rated Bid upon evaluation of the technical proposal using the "quality-based evaluation selection procedure" and the Highest Rated Responsive Bid in accordance with the provision of R.A. 9184 (Government Procurement Reform Act) and its implementing rules.

Schedule of bidding activities are as follows:

Activities	DATE	TIME	PLACE
Deadline/Opening of Eligibility and Short-List Requirements	Oct. 22, 2004	10:00 AM	6th Flr. Conference Rm.
Availability of Bid Documents *	Oct. 22, 2004	During office hours	BAC Secretariat c/o Admin. Division
Announcement of Short List	Oct. 28, 2004	10:00 AM	6th Flr. Conference Rm.
Pre-Bid Conference	Oct. 29, 2004	10:00 AM	6th Flr. Conference Rm.
Deadline/Opening of Bids	Nov. 10, 2004	10:00 AM	6th Flr. Conference Rm.

* Upon payment at the NLRC Cashier, 6th Flr. PPSTA Building 4, cor. P. Florentino St., Banawe, Q.C. in cash or cashier checks, payable to the NLRC, of a non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos Only (Php 5,000.00).

NLRC reserves, for justifiable reasons, the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, refuse to award the contract, or accept the offer most advantageous to the government. It also assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate/indemnify bidders for expenses incurred in the preparation of bids. Prospective bidders are required to conform and observe the provisions of Republic Act 9184 and its implementing rules.

(Sgd.) ATTY. APOLLO X.C.S. SANGALANG
BAC Chairman

NOTED:
(Sgd.) Ambassador ROY V. SEÑERES
NLRC Chairman
(PDI – Oct. 9 & 16, 2004)

ARAULLO UNIVERSITY

PHINMA EDUCATION NETWORK
Brgy. Bitas, Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija 3100 Phone No. (044) 463.0952

NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS OF PAMANTASAN NG ARAULLO (ARAULLLO UNIVERSITY), INC.

PRE-EMPTIVE RIGHTS OFFERING

Please be notified that on 4 October 2004, the Board of Trustees and Stockholders of the Pamantasan ng Araullo (Araullo University), Inc. (the "Corporation") approved an increase in the authorized capital stock of the Corporation from Ten Million Pesos (Php 10,000,000.00) to Three Hundred Million Pesos (Php 300,000,000.00) and to issue 16,000,000 new shares at the price of Php 10.00 per share.

All Stockholders of record as of 4 October 2004 may exercise their pre-emptive rights and subscribe to the new shares of the Corporation at the price of Php 10.00 per share in proportion to their shareholdings, or approximately 25.71 new shares for every existing share, with no fractional shares allowed, on or before **29 October 2004**, 4:00 p.m. under the following rules:

1. Subscribing stockholders must submit, on or before the said deadline to Ms. Pacita Yambao at the Ground Floor, Administration Building, Araullo University, Bitas Cabanatuan City, or to Ms. Caroline Castro at the 12th Floor, The Phinma Plaza, 39 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City, a duly executed and notarized Subscription Agreement, a form of which will be provided upon request.

   Subscribing stockholders must verify from any of the above-named persons on the exact number of new shares to which they are entitled to subscribe, based on the outstanding capital stock represented by 622,196 shares.

2. Payment of subscriptions must be in full, together the corresponding amount covering documentary stamp taxes, delivered together with the said Subscription Agreement, to any of the persons named above.

3. Stockholders who have advances existing in the books of the Corporation as of 4 October 2004 may pay for their subscriptions using the said advances, by delivering together with the said Subscription Agreement, a duly executed and notarized Deed of Assignment of Receivables, a form of which will be provided upon request.

4. Stockholders who do not exercise their pre-emptive rights or who exercise said rights only partially, shall be considered to have waived any right to subscribe to any remaining shares. The Corporation may offer and sell any and all the remaining shares not covered by any subscription to any other person or entity at the same price of Php 10.00 per share and under such terms as the Board of Trustees may provide.

5. The increase in authorized capital stock and pre-emptive rights offering are subject to the approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

For any inquiries on this matter, you may contact Ms. Caroline Castro, at telephone number (02) 870-0494.

Please be guided accordingly.

MELITON B. SALAZAR, JR.
President

(PDI – October 15 & 16, 2004)

CR AIRWAYS

CR Airways Ltd., a home base airline in Hong Kong, invites high caliber and diligent candidates to fill the following vacancies:

1. Line Captain

(REF: HR/RE-PH/04Oct/001)

2. Flight Officer

(REF: HR/RE-PH/04Oct/002)

Requirements

- (Line Captain) Minimum 5000 hours total flight time in which 1000 hours PIC must be on commercial jets.
- (Flight Officer) Minimum 1500 hours total flight time in which 500 hours must be on commercial jets.
- Experience on commercial airline operation is preferable.
- Applicants should be able to relocate to Hong Kong at short notice.

We offer attractive remuneration and generous fringe benefits to the successful candidates. Interested parties please send full resumé with expected salary to: hr@crairways.com or by post to Human Resources Departmen, 33/F, 118 Connaught Road West, Hong Kong.

Please refer to www.crairways.com for more information about our company.

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

NPC-PSD-2004-13

The Bids and Awards Commitee (BAC)-PSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

SCHEDULE	ITEM/DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 16, 2004; 9:00 AM			
13A1	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR, TOOLS, EQUIPT. & TECHNICAL SUPERVISION FOR THE REHAB OF UNIT NO. 1 COOLING TOWER, THREE (3) CELLS MARLEY COOLING TOWER, MODEL 6517-5-03, INDUCED DRAFT TYPE	5LGP-04-331(LS)	P 7,150,000.00
13A2	ELIMINATOR, DRIFT, TYPE: CELLULAR, TU 12X	5PGP1-04-138 (JP)	P 7,512,589.00
13A3	J.O.-SUPPLY OFLABOR, MATLS & EQUIPT FOR THE CASTING/FABRICATION OF ONE (1) UNIT COLUMN SUPPORT FOR EBARA HOTWELL PUMP MODEL 1500 X 900	5PGP1-04-217 (JP)	P 4,200,000.00
13A4	TREATED LUMBER, T&G & PLYWOOD FOR PARTIAL REHAB OF PGPP-1	5PGP2-04-158 (LS)	P 3,337,099.00
DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 16, 2004; 2:00 PM			
13B1	SPARE PARTS FOR PGPP-II STEAM TURBINE	5PGP2-04-033 (JP)	P 35,000,000.00
13B2	SPARE PARTS FOR HOTWELL PUMP, MODEL: 1500 X 900 VYDBM, MFR: EBARA	5PGP1-04-285 (JP)	P 6,000,000.00
13B3	VALVE, ISOLATION, PNEUMATIC ACTUATED	5PGP1-04-253 (LS)	P 8,500,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 17, 2004; 9:00 AM			
13C1	J.O -SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATERIALS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF WATER PROOFING OF MAKBAN SCIENCE CENTRUM ROOFING	3MGT-04-275 (ZC)	P 1,303,257.79
13C2	J.O -UPGRADING OF EXISTING AGED TURBINE SUPERVISORY INSTRUMENT (TSI) OF MAKBAN GENERATING UNITS 1 & 2 INTO ASSET CONDITION MONITORING SYSTEM	3MGM-04-282 (RP)	P 17,500,000.00
13C3	J.O.-REHABILITATION OF FIRE FIGHTING SYSTEM OF TIWI GPP PLANT B "CARBON DIOXIDE" & "WET SUPPRESSION"	3TGP-04-014 (RP)	P 17,430,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 17, 2004; 2:00 PM			
13D1	PROXIMITOR MONITOR, SENSOR, PROXIMITY PROBE & EXTENSION CABLE FOR VIBRATION MONITORING OF PLANTS A, B & C	3TGP-04-039 (RP)	P 1,960,676.00
13D2	MECHANICAL SEAL, CARTRIDGE TYPE	3TGP-04-027 (RP)	P 2,440,000.00
13D3	PUMP & MOTOR SET, MODEL: MS410, EBARA OR EQUIV	3TPM-04-035 (RP)	P 1,249,820.00
13D4	J O -REPAIR OF DIFFERENTIAL PRESSURE MONITOR (PB3)	3TPM-04-011 (JP)	P 3,200,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 18, 2004; 9:00 AM			
13E1	INTEGRATED MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM SOFTWARE/LOCAL AREA NETWORK (PB4)	1MCF-02-476 (JP)	P 6,300,000.00
13E2	ON LINE SILICA ANALYZER	1MCF-04-547 (LS)	P 1,023,400.00
13E3	J.O.-TO SUPPLY LABOR, MATLS, TOOLS, EQUIPT & TECHNICAL SUPERVISION FOR THE RECONDITION OF TWO (2) UNITS ROTOR SHAFT FOR VTR 401/IV-GB6	PB2-04-188 (NY)	P 1,500,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 18, 2004; 2:00 PM			
13F1	J.O.-SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING & TESTING OF THREE (3) 22" DIA. KNIFE-GATE TYPE BURNER SHUT-OFF VALVE (PB2)	2BCF-04-493 (LS)	P 2,000,000.00
13F2	SUPPLY SERVICES FOR THE ACID CLEANING OF BCFTPP UNIT NO. 1 BOILER (PB2)	2BCF-04-407 (JP)	P 12,500,000.00
13F3	BOILER TUBES FOR UNIT #2 REHEATER PENDANT & WATERWALLS	2BCF-04-699 (NY)	P 7,618,016.00
13F4	TOMOE CYLINDER OPERATED BUTTERFLY VALVE	2BCF-04-694 (NY)	P 1,250,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 19, 2004; 9:00 AM			
13G1	J O -SUPPLY OF LABOR & MATLS IN THE TOTAL REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS FOR CONTROL ROOM & OTHER OFFICES W/ 3 PACKAGE TYPE WATER-COOLER A/C SYSTEM	1MAG-04-238 (LS)	P 1,500,000.00

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held at the Bidding Room for the following bidding schedules on:

13A1-13A4	Oct. 28, 2004; 9:00 AM	13E1-13E3	Nov. 4, 2004; 9:00 AM
13B1-13B3	Oct. 28, 2004; 2:00 PM	13F1-13F4	Nov. 4, 2004; 2:00 PM
13C2-13C3	Nov. 3, 2004; 9:00 AM	13G1	Nov. 5, 2004; 9:00 AM
13C1 & D1-13D3	Nov. 3, 2004; 2:00 PM		

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Services Division Materials Management Dept. of NPC, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of PHP500.00 per schedule starting on October 21, 2004. **Issuance of eligibility and bid documents mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. up to the specified time as stated in the bid schedules above. No bid documents will be issued three (3) calendar days before the date of bidding.**

Bids will be received at the assigned Bidding Room, PSD, MMD, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registration issued by other NPC offices will be honored provided that the Certification is still valid. Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of "Republic Act 9184".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit-One Percent (1%), Surety Bond - Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand with 120 days validity period from the date of opening of bids issued by a Surety of Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids; and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

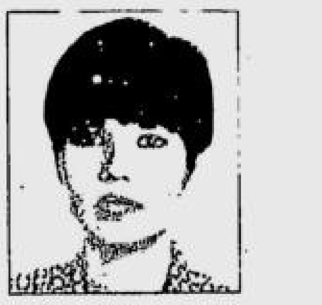
CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Commitee
PSD-NPC

(PDI - Oct. 16, 2004)

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES / 722-1144 • 722-1155

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

EDI ECOTREND DEVELOPERS, INC.



PERLINA "PERLA" R. SYKIMTE

GREGORIA "GIGI" C. LERON
GEME REALTY

To our valued clients,

Please be informed that the following persons above are no longer connected with Ecotrend Developers, Inc. since September 2003. Any representation or use of company name for whatever purpose is not authorized by the management.

(PDI – October 16, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

27 September 2004

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 21
Series of 2004

SUBJECT: MANDATORY APPLICATION OF GOOD MANUFACTURING PRACTICES (GMP) IN ALL NMIC ACCREDITED "AA" MEAT ESTABLISHMENTS.

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture believes that meat and meat product quality standardization are requisites to the development of the industry;

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture shall establish quality and safety standards of products related to agriculture and that meat being an agricultural product, the NMIC is responsible for its safety and quality standardization in pursuance to Article 7, Chapter 1 Title 1 of RA 7394 otherwise known as "The Consumer Act of the Philippines";

WHEREAS, the National Meat Inspection Commission as an attached agency of the DA is mandated to promulgate specific policies and procedures governing the flow of livestock products through the various stages of marketing and the proper preservation and inspection of such products;

WHEREAS, Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and Standard Sanitation Operating Procedures (SSOP) are the primary program that have to be practiced in all meat establishments and are pre-requisites to Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) Program.

NOW, **THEREFORE, I ARTHUR C. YAP Secretary of Agriculture, do hereby issue this Order requiring all NMIC accredited "AA" meat establishments to adopt Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and Standard Sanitation Operating Procedures (SSOP) in the whole process of food production and to be certified as such by NMIC.**

The NMIC shall issue implementing guidelines to this effect.

This Order shall take effect after its publication in two newspapers of general circulation.

(Sgd.) ARTHUR C. YAP
Secretary

(PDI - Oct. 16, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT
METRO MANILA
Welfareville Compound, Bgy. Addition Hills
Mandaluyong City
Tel. # 535-4521 or 535-4529

SENTRONG SIGLA

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

CHD-MM BAC-ITB NO. 2004-03

The Department of Health-Center for Health Development-Metro Manila (CHD-MM) invites all interested G-EPS registered bidders/suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of Environmental Supplies.

Bidding documents can be secured from BAC Secretariat at the Supply Section, CHD-MM, Acacia Lane, Welfareville Compound, Brgy. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City, telephone number 535-4542 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00).

The Approved Budget for the said items is FOUR MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P4,500,000.00).

The BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process anytime prior to the award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the CHD-MM's action.

(Sgd.) GERARDO V. BAYUGO, MD, MPH, CESO III
Director IV, CHD-MM

(PDI – October 9 & 16, 2004)

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ENRIQUE M. FERNANDO

(July 25, 1915 - October 13, 2004)

has joined his son **Enrique Q. Fernando, Jr. (TATA)**
in the peace of Our Lord.

We, his wife **Emma Quisumbing Fernando**; children **Lala** and **Pietro**, **Toto** and **Tina**, **Mia** and **Dominic**, and **Eric** and **Evelyn**; grandchildren **Cherry**, **Sofia** and **Manu**, **Sebastian** and **James**, and **Henry** and **Ken**; and great granddaughter **Isabella**

Honor his unflagging service to his country, dedication to the less privileged, pursuit of social justice and commitment to the rule of law.

Celebrate his talents, generosity and integrity as professor, jurist, advocate, public servant, husband, father, grandfather and friend.

Thank him for his protectiveness, loyalty, guidance and devotion. He was always there, full of praise and encouragement, reassuring, attentive and cherishing.

We ask his relatives, colleagues and friends to remember him in their prayers.

His remains lie at the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception (Ateneo de Manila College Chapel), Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

The Funeral Mass and Necrological services will be held at the Supreme Court of the Philippines on Wednesday, October 20, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.

The interment will be at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina immediately following the Necrological services.

"I have learned much in my life
from books
and out of them
above love.
Death
is not the end of it."

William Carlos Williams

REV. FR. EDILBERTO S.P. CRUZ

of Poblacion, Guiguinto, Bulacan

Peacefully joined our Lord
on October 12, 2004 at the age of 86.

His remains lie in state at Endless Love Memorial Park, Poblacion, Guiguinto, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 17, 2004 at Endless Love Memorial Park at 2:00 in the afternoon.

Archbishop RAMON C. ARGUELLES
with all the AFP/PNP Chaplains
announce the death of

Rev. Father (Captain)
RIO Q. ESTIOKO, MSC

Chancellor, Assistant Post Chaplain, St. Ignatius Cathedral & Parish Priest of Immaculate Concepcion Chapel, Camp Aguinaldo. Archbishop Ramon C. Arguelles, DD will celebrate Mass on Oct. 17, 2004 1000H at St. Ignatius Cathedral, the body will then be transferred to MSC Scholasticate, 17th Street New Manila.
Burial will be in Nueva Ecija
& will be announced later.

Our beloved PAPANG

RAFAEL PERIDO ROSARIO

Peacefully joined his Creator
on October 12, 2004
at the age of 73.

His bereaved sons Noel, Waldy & Zaldy; daughters-in-law, grandchildren, nephews, relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Cremation will take place on October 19, 2004 at 11:00 a.m. at the Manila Memorial Crematorium, Sucat, Parañaque.

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Memories

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The **INQUIRER NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS** brings forth – *Memories* – a tabloid-sized supplement to be published on **October 29, 2004** in time for the remembrance of our beloved loved ones.

This supplement will be dedicated to pre-need plans, funeral homes, memorial parks and other product/services related to death care. This endeavor will give you a chance to showcase your product lines and the attributes that your services offer.

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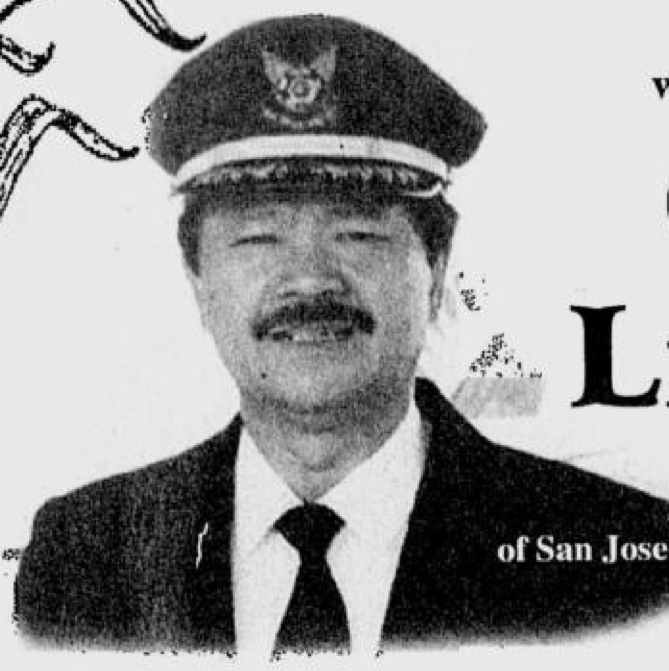

On his First Death Anniversary,

we lovingly miss and fondly remember our dearly beloved Daddy:

Capt. Gregorio Liggayu Medrana

(Retired B747-400 PAL Pilot)

of San Jose Village, Alabang Muntinlupa City who went home to our Lord last October 16, 2003.

Masses are being offered today at the following churches:

Shrine of Our Mother Mary Mediatrix of All Grace — *P. Torres St., Lipa City, Batangas* .... 7:00 a.m.
San Roque Parish Church — *Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija* .... 6:00 p.m.
St. Thomas Aquinas Church — *Sto. Tomas, Batangas* .... 6:00 a.m.
Our Lady of Miraculous Medal — *Fernando Air Base, Lipa City, Batangas* .... 6:00 a.m.
Sanctuario de San Antonio — *Forbes Park, Makati City* .... 6:00 p.m.
Redemptorist Church — *Baclaran, Parañaque City* .... 6:45 a.m.
San Jose Village Chapel — *Alabang, Muntinlupa City* .... 6:00 p.m.
St. Jerome Parish — *Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City* .... 6:30 a.m.
San Beda College Alabang Chapel — *Alabang Hills Village, Alabang, Muntinlupa City* .... 6:00 p.m.
Pink Sisters Adoration of Divine Mercy — *Tagaytay City* .... 6:30 a.m.
Our Lady of Coronation — *Villamor Airbase, Pasay City* .... 5:00 p.m.

To his family, he will be lovingly remembered as a Super Daddy who is always full of cheerful smiles, love and enduring support to his children: **Dr. Jack Gilbert**, **Shane**, **Mark Gregory** and **Monique**, **John Richard** and **Albert Constantine**. A doting and funny grand daddy to: **Siegfrid St. Lilyr**, **Pierce Schonburgh**, **Gregory Ray**, **Gerald** and **Goddfrey**. And a complete dedicated, sincere, faithful and loving husband to his wife, **Sonia Imelda**.

Wonderful memories of him will always linger inside every heart of those lives that he has touched. His relatives, friends and colleagues (from Philippine Airlines, The Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine Military Academy) will remember him as that special person who is gregariously articulate, a man with a very warm, generous and loving heart, a talented brother to his siblings **Paz** (†), **Melba**, **Tex** & **Toning**, **Lita** & **Nick**, **Vicky** & **Cesar** (†), **Triny** & **Chito**, **Marylou** & **Dennis**, **Peping** & **Ester**, **Victor** (†) and above all, a trusting and sincere friend to everyone.

We also wish to thank each and everyone who have shared their time with us during our moment of grief.

May we request for your continued prayers for his eternal peace and joyous life in the loving arms of God.

FABIO YANGA L. SANTOS

Bocaue, Bulacan

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on October 14, 2004 at the age of 80.

His loving wife **Lourdes Puatu Santos**; children: **Dennis** (†) and **Ludy Ponce**, **Ruby Alice** and **Bobby de Guzman**; grandchildren: **Alvin & Erika de Guzman**, **Jayson & Patrick Santos**; brothers and sisters **Cesar** (†) & **Guia Ycasiano**, **Elvira** and **Eliseo Santos** (†), **Erlinda & Tony Fortuna**, **Estefania**, **Dominador** and **Charito Santiago**, **Benjamin** and **Perla Abesamis**; nephews and nieces request the pious readers to pray for his eternal happiness.

His remains lie in state at his family residence in Bagumbayan, Bocaue, Bulacan.

Interment will be tomorrow, October 17, 2004 after the 3:00 p.m. Mass at the Garden of Peace Cemetery.

To our dear Mama Sabel,
Your Faith in God strengthened us...
The memory of your Love will continue
to bring life in our hearts.

Isabel Desales Beldia

of
Panitan & Pontevedra, Capiz

Peacefully joined our Lord
and her husband *Pacifico B. Beldia*
on October 13, 2004 at the age of *98*

The bereaved family: Bernardo & Nena(†); Dominica; Leopoldo & Jocelyn; Bernardita & Pedro; McArthur & Myrna; Viola & Manuel; McDonald & Cecilia ; Jose Thomas & Miriam; 26 Grandchildren and 15 Great Grandchildren mourn her passing & request prayers for her eternal repose.

Her Body lies in state at her residence at
PSPC, Bailan, Pontevedra, Province of Capiz

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

ELY PINEDA JAVIER ESPERANZA

of
Tanauan City, Batangas
wife of HERMINIO ESPERANZA (†)

Peacefully joined her Creator on October 12, 2004 at age of 81.

Her son Erick and wife Maricel; only surviving brother Patricio and sister Divina; her grandchildren, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers for their prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at her home in Tanauan City.
Interment will be tomorrow, October 17, 2004 after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at Tanauan City, Catholic Church.

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CLASSIFIEDS

Shimmering Splendour Crafts: Dream ... Believe ... Succeed...

FORMER Mayor of Bula, Camarines Sur, Mrs. Juliet Decena or "*Mayora*" to her constituents firmly believes that the future of her people is in bamboo. When she was mayor in 1999, she organized the Balikatan sa kaunlaran Tan-Awan Women's Association. She channeled the town's livelihood assistance to the group with bamboo as the basic raw material for their handicrafts. Success seems elusive, however, because through the years they have not experienced a breakthrough. She did not lose hope despite of this. She still believed in the future of her people in Bamboo. Seeing the project and business in a different perspective, she was advised by the Department of Trade and Industry Camarines Sur to venture into the business herself. *Mayora*, together with some members, visited the bamboo projects in Iloilo and the Manila FAME show. The visit served as an eye-opener for her to go into business herself and last April 21, 2003, "Shimmering Splendour Crafts" came into being. She hired five workers from the association and embarked intensively on product development and promotion of the company.

Despite the low sales turn-out, *Mayora* and her sister Virgie were optimistic that a breakthrough is just around the corner. In the middle of December, they got an order worth half a million pesos that required 200 workers. The buyer said it was just an initial order and would make a re-order if the company can meet the demand and deadlines. As this challenge was just what they've been waiting for, *Shimmering Splendour* proved its worth. On February 2004, they delivered another P200,000.00 worth of orders and in March, they got another P800,000.00. Barely a year passed and they now employ 350 people from only 5 workers when they started. This just proves the saying that "if you live your beliefs, you can turn the world around".

Indeed, *Shimmering Splendour Crafts* is now ready to conquer the world. On Oct 20 to 24, for the first time , *Mayora* will be joining the 8th Orgullo Kan Bikol Regional Trade Fair at the 5th Level, Bldg. B, SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City. *Mayora* hopes that through Orgullo, she can make it big in the national and international market. *Mayora* dreamed and believed that bamboo is her people's future and she succeeded.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

E-mail: pr_science_health@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**
Assistant Editor **Stella O. Gonzales**

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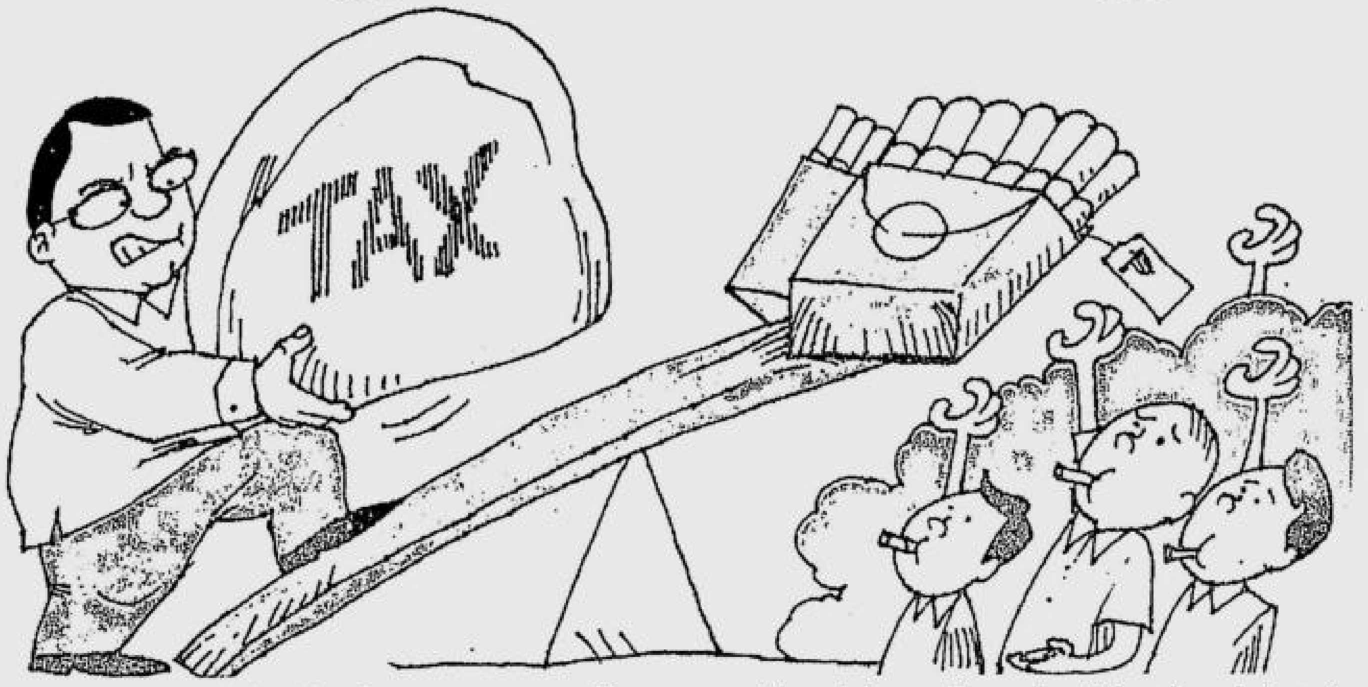
TO DISCOURAGE SMOKING

Higher taxes on cigarettes urged

By Christine Avendaño
and Desiree Caluza,
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau



SEN. Juan Ponce Enrile has filed a bill that aims to discourage smoking through the imposition of high taxes on cigarettes.

His bill, Enrile said, will not only rationalize the present "distorted" structure of tax rates and raise revenue for the government, it will also discourage the consumption of tobacco products and protect passive smokers as a result.

In the explanatory note to Senate Bill 1815, Enrile, who used to be a heavy smoker, said cigarette smoking has been proven to be hazardous to health, with 50 to 100 Filipinos said to be dying from lung cancer every day.

Of the estimated 23.8 million Filipino adult smokers, 66 percent come from the D class and 27 percent from the E class.

Enrile noted that many countries have enacted laws that severely regulate cigarette smoking and have imposed heavy excise taxes on the consumption of the product. But this was not the case in the Philippines where, he said, excise taxes on machine-packed cigarettes was "among the lowest" compared to other countries.

"Smoking, regardless of brands and prices of cigarettes, should be deterred or discouraged," Enrile said.

School sponsorships

Meanwhile, the World Health Organization (WHO) is calling on the government and educational institutions to impose policies that would ban tobacco companies from sponsoring projects in schools.

Lucille Nievera, program officer at the WHO Philippine office, said sponsorships by tobacco companies of educational projects, like anti-smoking campaigns for students, remain prevalent.

Nievera, who spoke before delegates to the National School Health and Nutrition Summit in Baguio City last Wednesday, said such programs, while appearing to dissuade young people from smoking actually have an effect to the contrary.

She presented a 2004 study of the WHO Tobacco Free Initiative which raised the question whether the tobacco industry's support for the reduction of tobacco consumption among the youth was "for real."

The study said youth smoking prevention programs of tobacco firms usually portray smoking as an adult activity, thereby increasing the appeal of cigarettes for young people.

"Rather than protecting the youth from tobacco, it may actually encourage an increase in youth smoking," it said.

The study said the tobacco industry, by posing as "responsible corporate citizens," has taken advantage of the vulnerability of governments, nongovernment organizations and tobacco control advocates who

HIGHER/B15

How to smell success

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

THE IG Nobel Prizes, which honor achievements that make you laugh and then make you think, were handed out two weeks ago.

Among this year's awardees were Frank Smith in the field of engineering for inventing and patenting the combover (a method of styling hair to cover partial baldness), and Jillian Clark in the field of public health for researching the "5-second rule" (food that falls onto the floor is still safe to eat provided it is picked up within five seconds).

This year's favorite has to be the recipient of the Ig Nobel Peace Prize, which went to Daisuke Inoue, the man who invented karaoke, for, as the citation says, "providing an entirely new way for people to learn to tolerate each other."

Press releases tell us that when he headed for the stage to accept his award, the Nobel prize awardees and the audience burst into song, serenading him with "You're just too good to be true/ Can't take my eyes off of you..."

Nobel prize

Not to be outdone, the Karolinska Institute in Sweden last week announced this year's Nobel Prize recipients.

In the field of physiology or medicine, the award went to Richard Axel, a professor of biochemistry and molecular biophysics at Columbia University in New York, and Linda Buck, a professor at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Institute in Washington, for their work in unraveling the secrets of man's sense of smell.

As the Nobel prize committee's press release notes, a sense of smell is not only important for survival and the need to detect fresh food and water, but also for one's quality of life because many odors are associated with various experiences and often trigger memories.

So how did Axel and Buck get on the road to glory? Fifteen years ago, Buck was a postdoctoral student in Axel's lab in Columbia. As its website will tell you, Axel's lab "is interested in how sensory information [specifically, olfactory information] is represented in the brain."

At the time, it was known that the olfactory epithelium in the nasal cavity has several million olfactory neurons connected directly to the brain. When you inhale, the odors detected by the receptors send the neurons racing to the brain, which then responds with specific emotions and behavior.

The question was, how did molecules from the odors prompt a person to bend to sniff the roses, or turn away in disgust at the stench of garbage?

Cornerstone

Working on mice, Axel's lab theorized that there were receptor proteins in the cilia of the olfactory epithelium. But they weren't sure whether there were many receptors that each recognized specific odors, or whether a few receptors recognized all odors.

Based on what was already known, and what they hypothesized, Buck looked for receptors with a specific shape, which were all members of the same gene family and only found in the rat's olfactory epithelium. She was surprised to find a large family of genes about a thousand-strong that coded for an equivalent number of olfactory receptors, which are part of the olfactory epithelium inside the nasal cavity.

In 1991, the journal Cell published Buck and Axel's paper, which, the Nobel Assembly pointed out, had since become a cornerstone in the study not just of how we smell things, but also how we taste them, and how the senses of taste and smell are interrelated.

Joy of science is in the process

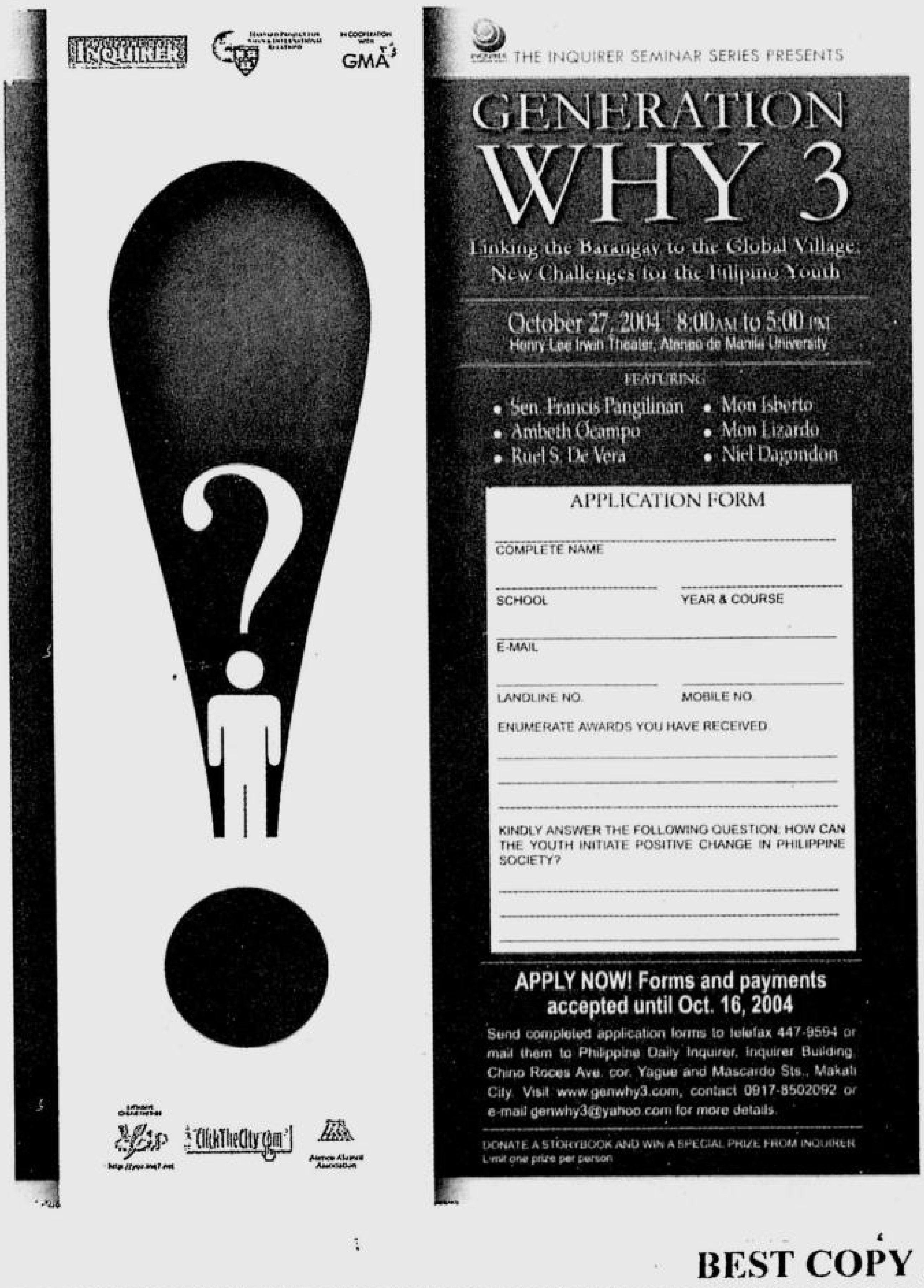
Axel told a reporter from Nobelprize.org, the official website of the Nobel Foundation, that although Buck now has her own lab that also studies the olfactory system, he and his fellow Nobel prizewinner are not direct competitors.

His final message to future Nobel Prize hopefuls: "That the joy of science is in the process, and not in the end. That science is not a move to an end; rather, it is a process of discovery, which onto itself should be a meaningful pleasure."

When the reporter asked what he would do that day, Axel said, "First I am going to have a cup of coffee."

I guess that counts as a meaningful pleasure in a process of discovery.

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.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Famous math problem solved?

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

IN 1904, the French mathematician Henri Poincare, in an attempt to make sense of the three-dimensional space geometry, observed that the surface of an apple say, in two dimensions, is "simply connected" whereas the surface of a doughnut is not.

Based on topology, which is the study of surfaces, the apple and the doughnut are different primarily not because of color, shape or size, but because the doughnut has a hole in the middle and the apple does not. Bend or stretch the apple as you will, and you will never produce a hole in the middle. (Cutting and slicing are not allowed.)

My colleague, Dr. Cathy Vistro-Yu e-mailed me a recent article "Is the Doughnut and Apple Riddle Solved?" published in the UK Math News No. 284.

Allan Laing poses the situation picturesquely: "First, find an apple, a doughnut and an elastic band. Now stretch the band around the surface of the apple. Carefully move the band slowly down the fruit without allowing it to leave the surface. See how the band expands and then shrinks as it moves from top to bottom?

"Now, try the same thing with the elastic band around the surface of the doughnut. Because of that pesky hole in the middle, it is impossible to shrink it without breaking the doughnut."

8-year work

Poincare wondered what would happen to connectivity in higher dimensions. For instance, what happens to the connectivity of a three-dimensional sphere? For more than a century, mathematicians have been working on this problem, with no lasting success.

Now there appears to be light at the end of the tunnel. Reminiscent of Andrew Wiles, who worked alone in an attic for eight years to finally solve perhaps the most famous theorem of them all, Fermat's Last Theorem, Russian mathematician Grigori Perelman also worked for the past eight years on Poincare's Conjecture.

Notoriously shy, Perelman, who works at the Russian Academy's Steklov Institute of Mathematics in St. Petersburg, seemed uninterested in the $1 million prize that will go to the successful problem solver. He has never consented to interviews, and most puzzling of all, especially in the peer review-conscious academic community, none of his work has appeared in journals. Instead, he would post his findings in a website.

7 unsolved math problems

The Clay Mathematics Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts, has provided a fund to award $1 million to the individuals or groups who find a solution to seven still-unsolved classic math problems. Aside from the Poincare Conjecture, the other problems are the Birch and Swinnerton-Dyer Conjecture (algebraic equations), the Hodge Conjecture (algebraic cycles), Navier-Stokes Equations (air and wave turbulence), P vs NP (computer science), the Riemann Hypothesis (prime numbers), and the Yang-Mills Theory (quantum physics).

Laing explains, "The Clay Institute's rules state that winners must have their work officially published and their evidence must stand the test of two years' scrutiny afterward."

Esoteric concepts

So how could Perelman possibly be considered?

"James Carlson, Clay Institute president, said that since Perelman's work was undergoing, in effect, a peer review by the world's finest mathematical minds, he may yet qualify for the prize. Experts are confident they will soon be able to decide if Perelman has solved the problem. They are scrutinizing his use of such esoteric concepts as the 'Ricci flow,' 'modulo diffeomorphism' and 'maximal horns.'"

So when will we know if Perelman is right, and worthy of a million dollars? No one knows, and because of his complex paper, most mathematicians believe that the evaluation process will take some time. (It took two years for some errors in Andrew Wiles' original solution to be pointed out, and another year for him to correct them.) But if Perelman's solution is proven correct, he would have earned a place in math history.

E-mail the author at blessbook@yahoo.com.

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CANCER TREATMENT

Support group helps

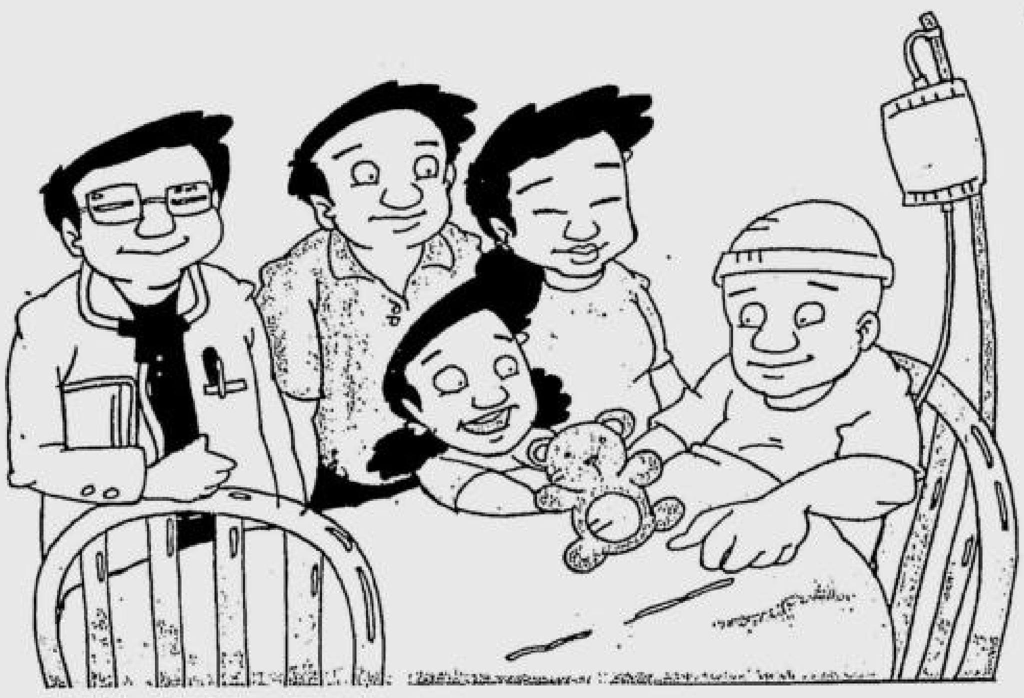
YAREN Agustin was diagnosed with Burkitt's lymphoma in 1995 when he was 13. He underwent a difficult healing process that included chemotherapy sessions and various treatments that resulted in hair loss. At that tender age, he never quite understood the reason behind his suffering and pain.

But Yaren was never alone in his fight against cancer. While his body was being restored by doctor-prescribed drugs and treatment, his family and friends lovingly stood by him, sustaining his spirit.

Indeed, no one should fight cancer alone.

Confronting the "Big C" can be overwhelming for the patient—physically, emotionally and spiritually. It is thus important for cancer patients to have someone from whom they can draw strength and encouragement.

Dr. Jig Mallen of the Riverside Medical Center in Bacolod City says most cancer patients need a venue that would explain to them how to accept their condition, how to fight the disease and how to manage it.



Equated with death

People diagnosed with cancer initially go through a denial stage. The mind refuses to entertain the word cancer because it is oftentimes equated with death.

Dr. Rachel Rosario, an anesthesiologist and cancer survivor, says that after being diagnosed with cancer, "there is an initial feeling of shock and disbelief."

Cancer patients tend to succumb to anger, bargain for a lighter illness or wallow in desperation.

One of the most significant participants in the fight against cancer are the doctors and oncologists. How doctors deal with their patients has a tremendous impact on the patients' attitude toward their illness.

It is always comforting for a cancer patient to know that his oncologist is not only concerned with the treatment of his disease but is also reaching out to him in a personal way.

Art of cancer care

Doctors help treat cancer by prescribing the proper medication and treatment. But the doctor's healing touch is also very important in helping the patient survive the disease.

"Taking care of cancer patients is not only a science, it is also an art," says Dr. Ramon Severino of the East Avenue Medical Center.

Doctors need to establish trust with their patients, and the best way to achieve this is by showing their patients that they feel for them and care for them.

"When a patient opens up to the doctor, it's a form of trust, and trust is a vital component in the treatment process," says Dr. Richard Cacho of the Philippine General Hospital.

"It draws the patient and the doctor closer together," says Dr. Severino.

Support groups

Doctors, however, cannot respond to all the emotional and psychological needs of their patients. This is where the support group comes in.

Since it is mainly composed of cancer patients and survivors, the group becomes an affirmation that the patient is not alone in his fight against the disease.

Today, more than 45 cancer support groups educate, help alleviate the suffering, and uplift the spirits of patients through prayers, lectures, and livelihood and social programs.

In April 2003, 35 cancer support groups convened for the first Cancer Support Group Summit. Over 120 participants, including cancer patients, survivors, doctors, volunteers, and families and friends of cancer patients, discussed effective cancer management methods and the role support groups must play.

The undertaking was spearheaded by Biomedis Inc., a division of the United Laboratories (Unilab) under the banner Biomedis Oncology, in partnership with the Philippine Cancer Society.

Biomedis Oncology is committed to finding ways of making life better not only for cancer patients and survivors, but also for doctors and support groups.

A second summit was held last May 12 in Manila.

Surviving cancer

Yaren was able to live with his disease through a strong support group. His mother, Yangky Agustin, a professor at the University of the Philippines, was with him in every step of his agony. She did not lose hope and held on to her faith. Her friends offered emotional and financial help; a couple had pledged to shoulder Yaren's medical expenses until he gets well.

Now 22, Yaren is an active volunteer of Khyte, a support group for cancer patients based at the East Avenue Medical Center.

Who would have thought that this energetic person was once a weak boy gripped with cancer?

(If you want to volunteer or give support to the advocacy for cancer patients, call Larry Simon of Biomedis Oncology at 638-5844, 631-8501 loc. 7347 or e-mail PYSimon@unilab.com.ph. You may also call Elvira Se of the Philippine Cancer Society at 734-2131.)

How to maintain a cancer-free diet

FILIPINOS love to eat so much that it is customary to eat five times a day (three meals and two snacks). The culinary goal of teasing and pleasing the palate is lost on local cuisine where food can be extremely sweet, extremely salty, too sour, or too spicy.

Since food and nutrition have much to do with a person's physical well-being, Roche Philippines Inc. is actively collaborating with the Philippine Cancer Society in raising cancer consciousness among Filipinos and in promoting healthy living through healthy eating.

In the Philippines, stomach, colon and rectum cancer continue to be major threats because of the typical Filipino diet, which is high in fat and lacking in fiber. The prevalence of stomach cancer in the country is likely linked to eating preserved or cured foods. Processed foodstuff and aflatoxin-contaminated food may cause liver cancer.

The threat of these cancers can be significantly reduced with the right diet and eating habits.

Cancer may be prevented with a diet high in carbohydrates and low in fat like cereals, tubers and pulses, and fruits and vegetables.

Moderation is key

A cancer-free diet doesn't mean giving up favorites like *lechon* (roast pig), sauce-rich viands like *adobo*, *menudo*, *kare-kare* and *caldereta*, and luscious desserts like *halo-halo*.

The key is moderation. This means not eating a plateful of *lechon*, and going easy on carcinogenic ingredients—fats, salts, preservatives—when preparing meals.

Lessen fat intake by reducing consumption of red meat and removing the skin and fat. A considerable amount of seafood and poultry is necessary to balance one's protein intake.

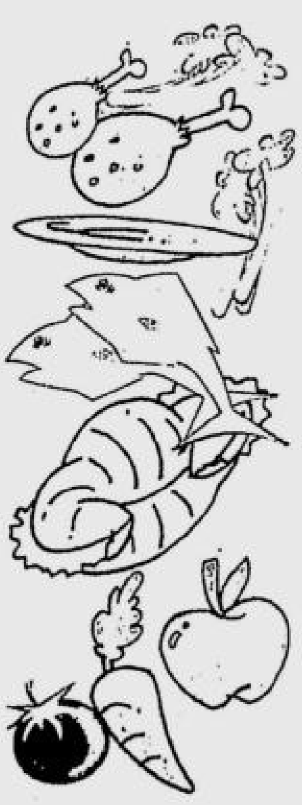
When cooking, use unsaturated fats from vegetables, corn, soya, sunflower or nuts.

Include more yellow and green leafy vegetables in recipes, or make vegetable dishes like *laing* or *pinakbet* the main viand.

When eating, minimize the use of spicy and salty condiments and dipping sauces.

If preserving meats or vegetables is necessary for longer shelf life, avoid chemical preservatives and use instead herbs and natural spices. In making cakes or other baked products, replace refined sugar with brown sugar, molasses and honey. Use whole grain cereals or flour products instead of refined ones.

Regulate the intake of carbonated drinks like sodas and bean-generated beverages like coffee and cocoa. Drink eight to 10 glasses of water daily. And treat yourself to a glass of fresh fruit juice at least twice a week.



Here's a new way to administer drug

By Charles E. Buban

NONSTEROIDAL anti-inflammatory drugs, or NSAIDs, are commonly prescribed to treat rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, mild-to-moderate pain, menstrual cramps, bursitis, gout and migraine headaches.

These drugs work by blocking the production of a group of chemicals called prostaglandins, which the body produces in response to an injury or disease. These prostaglandins would otherwise go on and cause swelling, pain and inflammation.

But NSAIDs also inhibit certain groups of prostaglandins from protecting the stomach lining from being eroded by its own acid and in maintaining its natural healthy condition, says Dr. Sandra Tankeh-Torres, past president of the Philippine Rheumatology Association.

As a result, people taking NSAIDs often complain of stomach and gastrointestinal problems that may range from abdominal pain to heartburn and upset stomach.

Ulceration can be fatal

Torres says these side effects sometimes lead to ulceration of the stomach and the duodenum. This can be fatal especially for the high-risk group who may suffer from bleeding or perforation of the stomach.

Included in this high-risk group are elderly people, those with rheumatoid arthritis, those taking blood thinning medications or cortisone medication, and people with heart disease or a prior history of bleeding ulcers.

"This is really unfortunate considering that drugs like piroxicam are one of the more effective and potent among the anti-inflammatory drug groups in the market today," Torres says.

She says piroxicam is 200 times and 30 times more effective than aspirin and indomethacin, respectively.

Transdermal patch

While most drug companies abandoned piroxicam research altogether, others like the South Korea-based pharmaceutical giant SK Pharma decided to develop a unique method of delivering the potent drug to the body without causing the usual side effects.

The result was the world's first NSAID in a transdermal patch (sold locally under the brand name Macroxam).

The patch works by penetrating the skin. By using a technology called drug penetration enhancer, 48 milligrams of the active ingredient is delivered into the actual area of inflammation directly and gradually within 48 to 72 hours, says Lynda Tantiado-Consigo of Macropharma Corp., the company that markets the drug in the Philippines.

The drug bypasses the stomach where it may cause problems.

"I believe this is good news. The transdermal method can be an alternative route of administration to accommodate patients who cannot tolerate oral forms of piroxicam. It is also of great advantage among patients who feel nauseated or are unconscious," Torres says.

She says only few drug products using this delivery system are currently available. These include anti-angina drugs, antihypertensives, antismoking agents and motion sickness drugs.

Chili plaster

Macropharma's challenge now is how to inform the public about the difference between the piroxicam transdermal patch and chili plasters and similar products.

Consigo says these plasters do not really heal and are just transferring heat to the inflamed area.

She says that unlike chili plasters, the piroxicam transdermal patch is easily removed and leaves no mentholated odor that turns off some people.

Secondary hypertension

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

(First of two parts)

MEDICAL FILES

A PATIENT once asked me, "Doctors talk about primary hypertension and secondary hypertension, is there also a college hypertension?"

I took it as a joke and didn't answer his question. Several months later, he came back and said, "Doc, my blood pressure has gotten worse. It started as primary hypertension, now it must be in college!" I realized then that I needed to do some explaining.

There's no such thing as college hypertension.

Primary or essential hypertension is what most people (90 percent of cases) have. In this type, there is no identifiable factor behind the elevation of the blood pressure. It likely runs in the family, and it's just too bad the patient inherited bad genes. Lifelong treatment is required.

A small number of patients have secondary hypertension, or SH. It's important to promptly detect cases of SH because in most instances the hypertension can be cured once the cause is removed, usually by surgery. This is particularly true for tumors of the adrenal glands, the small organs that sit on top of the kidneys.

Causes: ABCDE

There are many known conditions that can cause SH. Dr. Edward Onusko of the Clinton Memorial Hospital in Wilmington, Ohio, has a useful mnemonic code on SH: ABCDE.

A for obstructive sleep Apnea (snoring and cessation of breathing while sleeping), Aldosteronism, Apprehensions or stress; B for presence of renal artery Bruits (suggesting a narrowing of kidney arteries), Bad kidneys, Baby- or fetus-induced (preeclampsia); C for excess Catecholamines, Coarctation of the aorta, Cushing's syndrome; D for Drugs, Diet; E for excess Erythropoietin, and Endocrine disorders.

Routine urine test, complete blood cell count, blood chemistry profile (potassium, sodium, creatinine, fasting glucose, fasting cholesterol levels) and a 12-lead electrocardiogram are recommended for patients with hypertension. Further laboratory examination may be needed if the patient is strongly suspected to have SH.

Obstructive sleep apnea (OSA), a repetitive mechanical obstruction of the upper airway during sleep, is an independent risk factor for hypertension. At least one-half of patients with OSA have hypertension. Treatment of OSA with surgery or nasal continuous positive airway pressure reduces hypertension.

Signs and symptoms of OSA are daytime sleepiness, obesity, snoring, lower-extremity edema, morning headaches and frequent urination at night. There is also a high incidence of OSA among patients with chronic lung diseases such as emphysema or chronic bronchitis.

Aldosteronism

Excessive secretion of the hormone aldosterone, which may be caused by a tumor in the adrenal gland, can cause SH.

Aldosterone causes retention of salt and water and also results in loss of the electrolyte potassium by the kidneys.

Aldosteronism can run in families and is characterized by high blood pressure that is resistant to ordinary drug treatment. Confirmation may be done by CT scans. Treatment includes intake of aldosterone antagonists and surgery to remove the tumor in the adrenal gland.

Renovascular hypertension is defined as hypertension resulting from compromised blood supply to the kidneys. About 65 percent of renovascular disease is secondary to atherosclerosis in the renal arteries, usually seen after age 50 in patients at risk for arterial compromise (e.g., smokers, patients with diabetes, patients with known atherosclerotic disease). Fibromuscular dysplasia (FMD) develops in younger patients (25 to 50 years), but this is a very rare condition in the Philippines.

About one-half of patients with renovascular hypertension will have an abdominal bruit that can be identified through physical examination. Bruits are abnormal sounds of fluid passing through a constricted tube, which the doctor may hear with the use of a stethoscope.

The incidence of renovascular hypertension is less than one percent, but identification of this relatively small population can be important because surgery or dilating the constricted artery (angioplasty) can reverse the hypertension, especially if performed early enough to prevent permanent kidney damage.

Magnetic resonance angiography (MRA) is a useful examination. Another initial diagnostic test is the renogram (scanning exam).

Higher taxes on cigarettes urged

From page B14

lack the budget in implementing tobacco control programs.

Nievera said tobacco companies have also been targeting adolescents through misleading images of power and glamour by sponsoring sporting events, star athletes, fashion shows and adventure contests to attract young people to smoke.

12 percent are smokers

Citing WHO's Global Youth Tobacco Survey in 2003, Nievera said that among nonsmokers, 26.5 percent were likely to initiate smoking this year, and 30 percent think boys who smoke have more friends.

The survey also said that 12 percent of the youth were smoking in the past 30 days, and 51 percent were smoking in the presence of adults.

Tobacco use among the young is increasing, Nievera said. In 2000, 39 percent of students surveyed admitted they had smoked; in 2003, the figure was 41.9 percent.

The WHO said tobacco smoking is the second major cause of deaths in the world, accounting for the death of one in 10 adults worldwide, or about five million deaths a year.

"A cigarette is the only legally available consumer product that kills through normal use," the WHO said.

Banks' bad loans dipped to 13.8% in Aug.

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE RATIO of bad loans to the total loans of Philippine commercial banks softened to 13.84 percent at end-August from 13.92 percent in July as fresh lending expanded faster than the growth of non-performing loans.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday reported that the sector's total loan portfolio rose by 1.8 percent to P1.66 trillion, outpacing the 1.2 percent rise in bad loans to P248 billion.

Compared to a year ago, the 13.84 percent bad loan ratio in August was 1.12 percentage points better than the previous 14.96 percent ratio.

Excluding inter-bank loans, the month's NPL ratio stood at 16.51 percent—a bit better than the 16.54 percent ratio a month ago.

Also, the ratio of restructured loans to total loans went down to 7.44 percent from 7.58 percent at end-July.

Restructured loans during the period amounted to P134.76 billion from P134.79 billion at end-July.

The ratio of non-performing restructured loans to total restructured loans also fell during the month by 1.03 percentage points to 53.5 percent due to the slowdown in restructured loans that had turned bad.

A debt restructuring can cover a whole range of debt concessions—including the stretching out of maturities, lowering of interest rates and, in extreme cases, the conversion of debt into equity—to give the borrower some room to breath and chance to revive its business.

But as more than half of debts restructured by local banks for borrowers knocked down by the Asian currency crisis turned sour again, analysts said there would be second or third wave of restructuring for a lot of borrowers and banks would have no choice but to accept more concessions.

When the Asian crisis erupted in 1997, banks wanted to collect at all cost and were reluctant to restructure. Generally, foreclosure was always the last option because of the banking system's rising real and other properties owned and acquired (Ropoas) as well as the costly foreclosure proceedings.

Meanwhile, the ratio of Ropoas stood at 5.66 percent at end-August from 5.7 percent at end-July, as the growth in the banks' gross assets outpaced the 0.5 percent rise in Ropoas to P208.09 billion.

The industry's non-performing assets (NPA)—combining the bad loans and Ropoas—were trimmed to 12.3 percent or P449.26 billion.

Meanwhile, the NPL and NPA coverage ratios fell by 0.33 and 0.05 percentage points to 52.65 percent and 32.39 percent, respectively, as the growth of NPLs and Ropoas overtook the increases in loan loss reserves.

At end-August, loan loss reserves stood at P130.36 billion while NPA reserves were reported at P145.53 billion.

The BSP expects the sector's NPL ratio to improve significantly as banks scramble to dispose their assets to meet the deadline to avail of the perks offered by the Special Purpose Asset Vehicle law.

The SPV Law intends to help banks get rid of their non-performing assets by waiving some of the taxes and reducing fees usually collected in the sale or transfer of assets.

The law waived the documentary stamp tax, capital gains tax and e-VAT (expanded value added tax). It likewise reduced registration and transfer fees by 50 percent.

Gov't asserts right to apply tax reforms

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance yesterday said that only the national government could set deadlines on the implementation of measures to address the country's fiscal problem.

Credit-rating agencies are reportedly exerting pressure on government to apply the necessary remedies to ease the debt and deficit problems. But the Arroyo administration's economic team is well aware of the steps needed to be taken and the urgency of implementing reforms, Finance Undersecretary Eric Recto said.

"We already know what they have been saying as our problems," said Recto. "We are already addressing them, and we are trying our best to push through with the solutions. We are putting deadlines on our own, which should be the basis of credit-rating firms in assessing whether we are succeeding or not."

The progress of the Arroyo administration's proposed measures are said to be going slow in Congress, and credit-rating agencies, such as Standard & Poor's, have warned of adverse effects on the country's credit standing.

Another credit-rating firm Moody's Investors Service is reportedly considering downgrading the country's credit rating if none of the measures is passed.

The government is pushing for the legislation of eight tax measures which, if all are passed, may generate about P80 billion in additional revenue a year and ease the national government's gaping budget deficit and ballooning debt.

The deficit is expected to stand at P197.8 billion by year's end, while the debt has already reached P3.5 trillion as of the first half.

Mirant's Quezon plant in world's top 12

By Abigail L. Ho

A FILIPINO power facility made it to the list of New York-based Platts Power Magazine's 12 best power plants in the world.

The Mirant Philippines Corp.'s 735-megawatt Pagbilao coal-fired power plant in Quezon is way up there with some of the best power plants in the United States, Canada and South Korea.

"This is a testament to the operational excellence of the plant on all fronts," Edgardo Bautista, Mirant Philippines president and chief executive, yesterday said in a statement. "The men and women of the Pagbilao power plant have done a truly remarkable job."

Among the criteria for choosing the best power facilities are environmental performance, efficiency and successful deployment of advanced technology, said magazine editor-in-chief Robert Peltier.

In the magazine's profile of the Pagbilao plant as published in its July-August issue, it said the power facility was chosen as one of the 12 best plants in the world "for running more reliably and cleanly every year."

"This recognition is something that all Filipinos can be proud of as it showcases the world-class talent of Filipinos in running and maintaining a power plant," Bautista said.

The Pagbilao plant started operating in 1996 and was one of the first facilities that helped respond to the country's power needs during the crisis of the early 90s.

It is also the first baseload power generating facility in the country. This means that the power plant runs at constant load to address everyday demand.

Mirant is the country's biggest independent power producer, having stakes in power plants that have a total installed capacity of 3,497 MW. Of this total, Mirant owns 2,273 MW.

Among the plants it has stakes in are the Pagbilao plant (95 percent), the 1,251-MW Ilijan natural gas-fired plant in Batangas (20 percent), the 1,218-MW Sual coal-fired plant in Pangasinan (92 percent), the 95-MW Navotas 2 plant in Manila (100 percent), the 4-MW San Ildefonso plant in Bulacan (100 percent), the 4-MW Pinamalayan plant in Mindoro (50 percent), the 75-MW Sangi plant in Cebu (50 percent), the 37-MW Carmen plant in Cebu (50 percent), and the 72-MW Iloilo plant in Panay (50 percent).

UCPB may aid BoC vs illegal goods

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BUREAU of Customs and the United Coconut Planters Bank have agreed in principle to develop a funding facility that is seen to curb rampant smuggling in the country.

The BoC and UCPB have held high-level talks with the Federation of Philippine Industries and agreed to set up a special credit facility as well as a guarantee mechanism for the BoC, Jesus L. Arranza, a member of the UCPB board of directors, said in a statement.

Arranza said the aim was to make funds readily available to the BoC to enable the bureau to exercise more effectively its authority to make compulsory acquisition of undervalued imports.

The Tariff and Customs Code mandates the BoC to make such purchases at an amount corresponding to the customs valuation declared by the importer and dispose of the goods through a public auction.

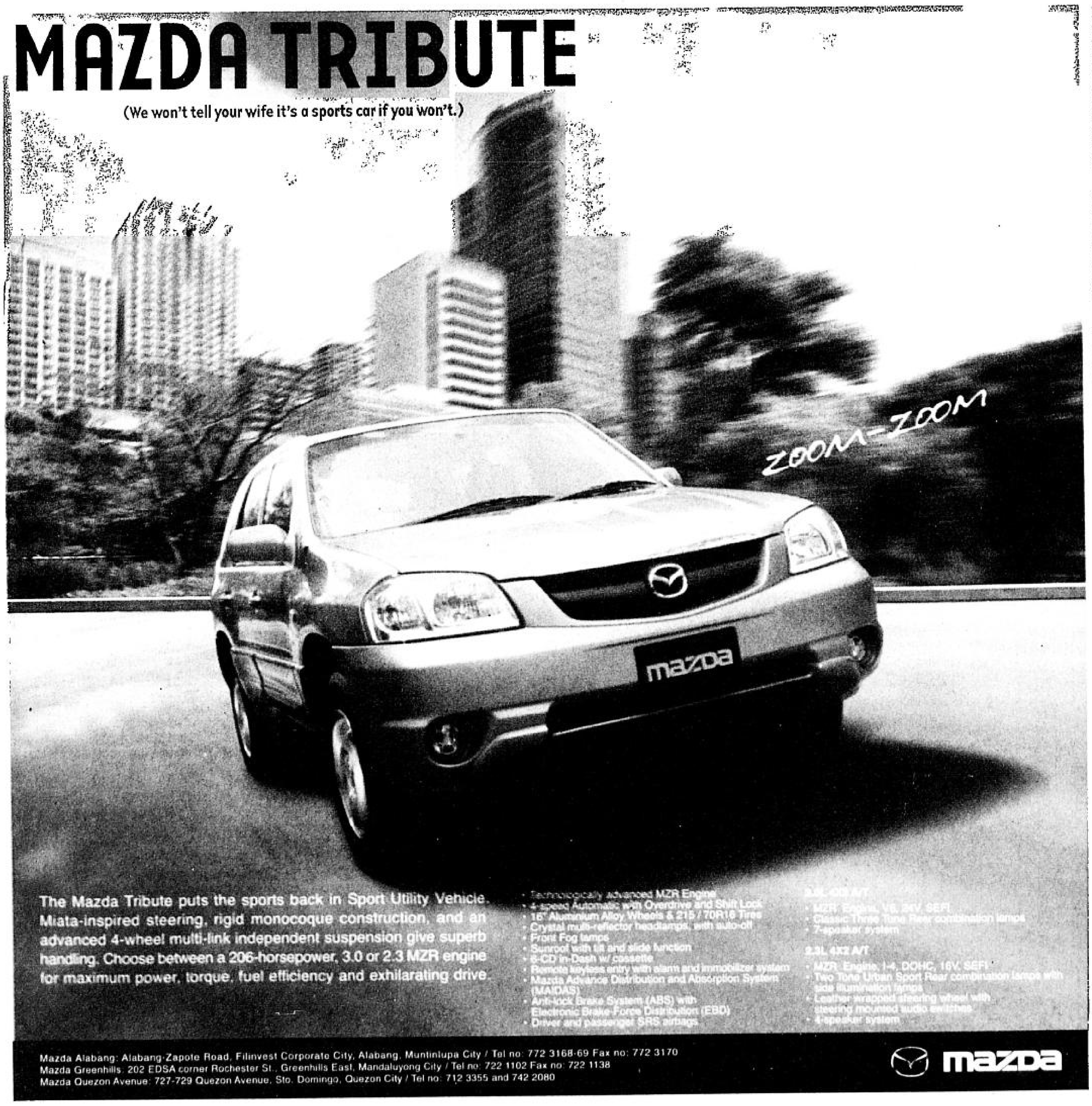
Arranza, who chaired the board of advisers for the defunct National Anti-Smuggling Task Force, said incidents of undervaluation of import goods represent about 80 percent of technical smuggling cases in the country.

This trend not only deprives the government billions of pesos in customs revenues yearly, but also undermines the viability of domestic industries, Arranza said.

Some importers undervalue their goods to evade payment of the correct customs duties and tariffs, he explained.

"It would put a big dent on technical smuggling if BoC can exercise its authority to make compulsory acquisition with greater regularity," Arranza said.

He cited a report from the International Monetary Fund, which said that the country yearly loses anywhere between P50 billion and P100 billion in customs duties and tariffs due to technical smuggling.



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PROPERTY

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

Bamboo cheaper alternative to steel in building houses

By Tessa R. Salazar

WITH CHINA gobbling up much of the world's steel supplies to satisfy the demands of its booming construction sector, steel prices have risen steeply.

Enter a cheaper alternative, the bamboo. "Kawayan tinik" or "blumena bambusa" is seen as a viable alternative to steel for mass housing in the Philippines.

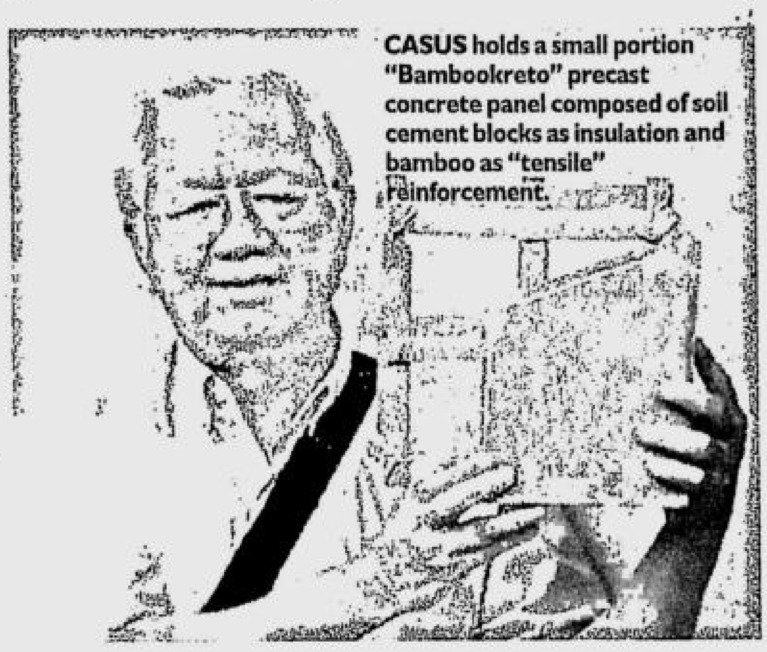
The architects and engineers of the Science Technology Architecture and Research, Southeast Asia Foundation (Star Sea) plan to use bamboo for the walls of about 500 houses on a 28,800-square-meter property in Los Baños, Laguna.

Seventy-three-year-old architect Jesus Guevara Casus, president of Star Sea group and owner of the 28,800 property, specializes in mass housing technologies. He has registered this latest innovation as "BambooKreto."

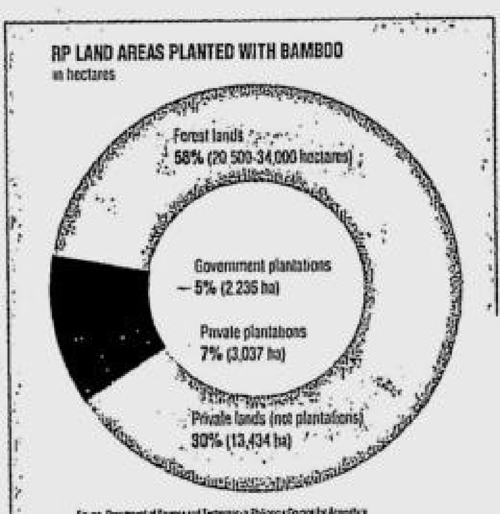
His team has partnered with Couples for Christ's Gawad Kalinga under the National Home Mortgage Financing Corp.'s Community Mortgage Program to build the housing units.

Casus said he would meet with Vice President Noli de Castro to present "Komunidad Kabayan" housing program—a self-help com-

BAMBOO/B2-2



CASUS holds a small portion "Bambookreto" precast concrete panel composed of soil cement blocks as insulation and bamboo as "tensile" reinforcement.



Source: Department of Science and Technology's Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development

Know more about bamboo

- About 39,200 to 52,700 hectares of land are planted with bamboo across the country.
- There are 62 species of bamboo in the country. Of these, 21 are native species.
- Species used for housing and other construction are:
  - Kauayan-tinik
  - Buho
  - Kauayan-kiling
  - Bayog
  - Bolo
- These are used as:
  - Walls and partitions
  - Ceiling
  - Floor
  - Doors and windows
  - Posts
  - Scaffolding and reinforcements
- Although demand for bamboo is primarily for furniture and handicraft manufacturing, there is high demand for it especially among rural households that use low-cost construction materials
- Bamboo demand for house maintenance in rural areas nationwide is placed at 7.3 million poles each year
- There is an equal demand for bamboo in other construction projects such as cottages and picnic sheds in resorts, fences, footbridges and bamboo splits for nipa shingles
- Noted architects who have used bamboo are:
  - Ed Calma—for the Philippine pavilion in the Expo 2000 in Hanover in Germany
  - Francisco "Bobby" Mañosa—known for incorporating sidings, floorings, paneling, mosaics, ceilings, and other structural elements made of bamboo in his projects

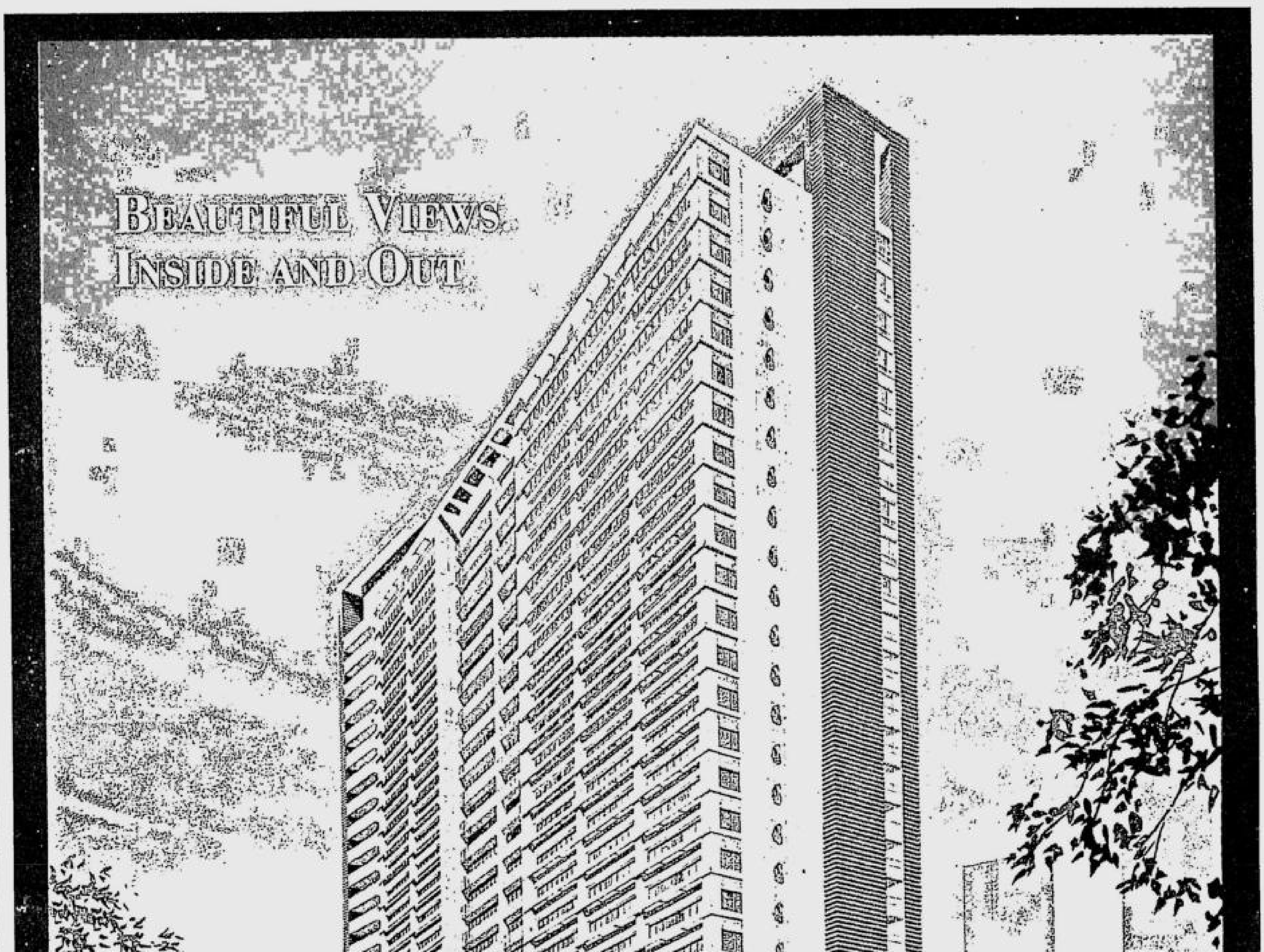
Source: Department of Science and Technology's Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development

Steel industry at a glance

- Steelmaking in the country is limited to melting or the recycling of steel scrap in electric furnaces. The steel is cast into billets and rolled into long products-reinforcing bars, rods and sections.
- Bulk of the country's billet requirements is imported
- Existing local production of billets of around 400,000 metric tons is only 20 percent of demand. The remaining 80 percent is imported from Russia, Ukraine, Taiwan, Malaysia, etc.
- Next to oil, steel product is the biggest user of foreign exchange
- Growth and development of the Philippine steel industry averages only 4.4 percent a year against the 7 to 8 percent growth in neighboring Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia.
- Iron and steel industry can be subdivided into 3 sectors:

1. Primary sector which includes:
   a. iron making or extraction of iron from iron ore
   b. steel making or refinement of iron or scrap into steel
   c. billet, ingot and slab casting—casting of molten steel into desired semi-finished shapes
2. Intermediate sector which covers all processing of semi-finished steel into finished products
3. Downstream sector which includes major users of steel products such as construction, metalworking and engineering, shipbuilding, vehicle assembly, appliance manufacturing and packaging

Source: "The Philippine Iron & Steel Industry" by Department of Science and Technology's Metals Industry Research and Development Center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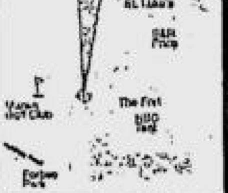

Another landmark project of
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What your house reveals about you

By Pinky B. Cruz

COMMENTARY

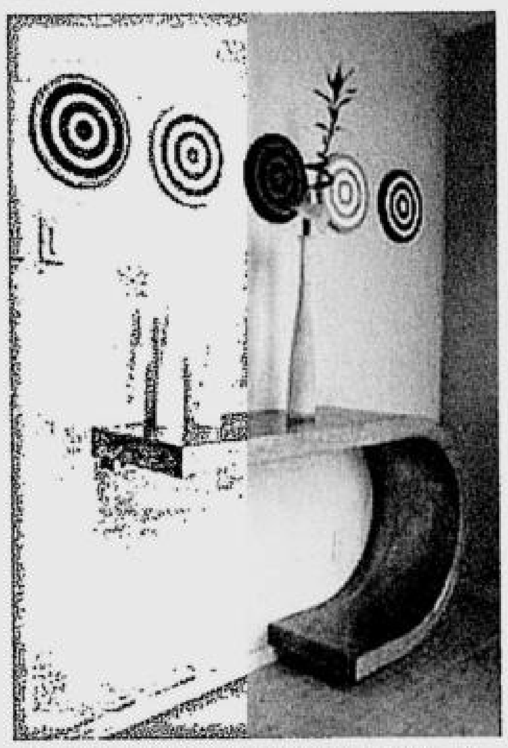
WITH THE AVERAGE Filipino spending his lifetime savings to own a house, finding the right house can be the most daunting search of his life. There's a long list of standards to go through before making that crucial decision to buy one's dream house.

After a decade of designing people's homes, I have come to realize that beyond the financial preparation, putting together a house, together with being able to put your own stamp on it, is the biggest challenge to hurdle.

Hard times, but...

I expect violent objections to this. "I barely make ends meet paying my rent, how can you talk of owning a house?" It is true. And that's precisely my point.

Faced with the hard times, I now see the need for us stressed-out, hardworking class to have some degree of ownership of a place we can retreat to—our own space—regardless of its limitations. Why, because our home, and I might be waxing philosophical here, is the one most intimate reflection of our being. It reveals something about our personality and lifestyle more than we care to admit.



AN ARTIST'S place—inexpensive materials, such as galvanized iron sheet fashioned as a console table, creates a statement in the foyer.

From 'American' to 'Zen'

Being an interior designer, I "benefit" a lot from clients who don't exactly know what they want and how to do it. Ergo, they hire me to put some pizzazz into their homes. Funny but in my experience of doing private residences, I'm amazed to see a wide breadth of home preferences. Talk about Zen-inspired, Organic, American Country, borderline Delusional, gilded Italian Kitsch, hyper minimalist, Maximalist. Name it. This shows our Pinoy homeowner is not just after a hole to lay his head on. He's got style! And that style says a whole lot about him.

So what does your home reveal about you? Does it truly reflect your tastes, interests and passions? It is a place where you are truly yourself, where you feel at home—quite literally, where you spend most of your stay here on earth, so it better be.

'Thy house speaketh'

Your choice of look determines where you are drawn and inclined to. Say, the colors you pick will give a clue to whether you are an extrovert or a private person.

You may go for gothic colors like violet and deep reds if you are on the bolder, want-to-stick-out-of-the-crowd type, and neutral colors like beige and grey if you are on the safe, popular and accepted group. A no nonsense, highly ordered type will be more inclined to choose the minimalist, uncluttered look, as he may freak out when a minute detail is "out of place."

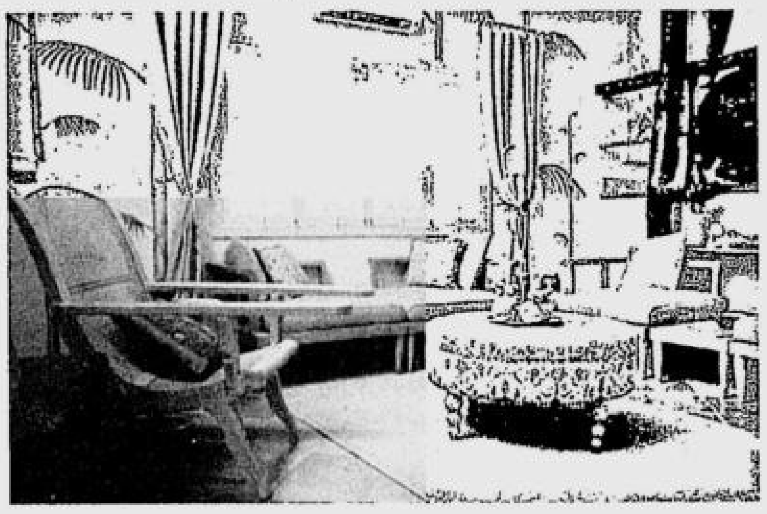
In contrast, a carefree, spontaneous soul will go for something organic, fresh and all bursting with colors and shapes. Therefore, the secret is finding your true self and being comfortable in that zone you inhabit.

Out of the box

Your background, where you came from and where you want to head, your memories (and what you're trying to forget!), your journeys and values shape particular styles. One may go for a faraway look reminiscent of historic past that bespeaks a place he had longed to be in, and so he recreates that dream in his respective abode.

Think of "Under the Tuscan Sun," the story of a writer who found a fresh breath of life in an Italian countryside and so abandoned the city to renovate this old Tuscan cottage. When money is an issue, one can lean more on modern, clean lines, with a lot of innovations borne out of a shoestring budget.

NO doubt, a carefree, spirited being appreciates a sunshiny, radiant color palette. An old door from a convent turned table becomes the centerpiece.



A CITY dweller, hungering for a getaway, recreates it right in his home with an all-natural look bamboo, sand, stone and driftwood.

I once had this client who fashioned his cabinets and stairs out of discarded cartons. Turned out to be a conversation piece! The message is really to go out of the box and try venturing into new, unexplored territories when it comes to designing. Be separate!

I remember getting an old door from a convent and having recycled it as a center table. I've never been so inspired with the result.

Living the life?

Oh please. Some people try to live in a space not really them. An interior commands your presence, your interests, your desires and reflects what you hold dear most.

I witnessed a lot of butchered houses because of fears that paralyze rather than give life. The very memorable projects I handled are the ones where the client exerts a strong sense of what he really likes and is willing to exhaust everything to achieve it. I usually go to thrift shops and junk yards for inspiration. Evangelista Street is a haven! After all, design happens in the strangest of places.

In the end, regardless of your status, do not sell short your own brand of style. Celebrate yourself with the home you live in, only then can you be truly home with yourself!

(The author is the senior designer and CEO of Creative Post Inc.)

Homes below P1 million never looked this good

HOW to maximize the value of homes from 33 to 88 square meters in floor area is amply demonstrated in five new model units at San Antonio Heights, a joint development of LPHI, Greenfield Development Corp. and Batangas Asset Corp. at the foot of Mt. Makiling. A short drive from the southernmost tip of the South Luzon Expressway, San Antonio Heights is easily accessible to the progressive communities of Calamba, Laguna and Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

The project with single-detached and townhouse packages provides homeowners with budget of less than P1 million. Offering floor areas ranging from 33 to 81 square meters, each home utilizes the Tex system, a British building system that makes use of precast parts which in turn assure homeowners of high construction standards, according to project officer Martin de Leon.

Moreover, San Antonio Heights draws from the long experience of LPHI in community management as shown in such features as 24-hour security and water service.

Design improvements

As an extra service to buyers, LPHI consulted with interior designer Grace Milan so she could design improvements that could further add value to the "ready-made" homes being offered at San Antonio Heights. "A little creativity can go a long way in making a home more comfortable and gracious," says Milan who received her basic training in interior design in the United States.

Here are some projects buyers can undertake to customize homes built by developers and further boost their attractions:

- **Make flooring, kitchen and bathroom tiles an investment priority.** Most units built by developers come with only the most basic amenities. The practice acknowledges the very diverse tastes of buyers and allows them to easily customize their interiors. Upgrading floors, bathroom tiles and kitchen amenities is thus advisable."

When working on home interiors, says Milan, a pragmatic rule to heed is: Permanent things first. For Milan, a home's permanent or immovable amenities include floors, bathroom tiles and kitchen counters. Because it is next to impossible to live in a house while work is ongoing in these areas, she suggests that they be made an improvement priority.

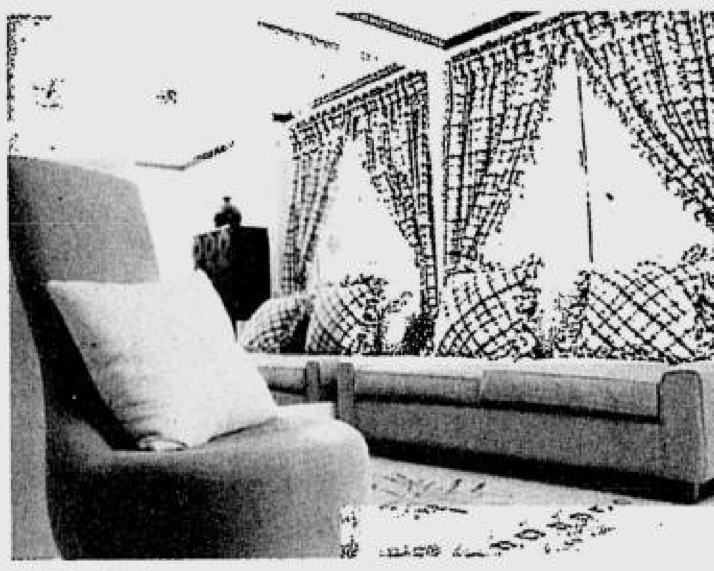
- **Choose neutral floors that will last.** When selecting floors, Milan recommends homogenous tiles which retain their looks and luster without polishing and scrubbing. Made from aggregate materials, these types of tiles remain within the same price range as ceramic tiles. She prefers tiles in large sizes of 18" x 18" or 24" x 24" and borders them with hairline grouting. She observes that large tiles add to the visual expanse of a room.

In addition, she prefers tiles in neutral colors. These types of floors, she explains, last a long time and should thus be in a hue that will remain pleasing to the eye even after trends change.

- **White works best for bathrooms.** Just like floor tiles, bathroom tiles and fixtures also have a long lifetime. Consequently, it makes great sense to choose tiles in white or a light neutral shade that will outlast passing fads. As to bathroom sinks and toilets, Milan has a strong preference for white which will always look good. "You can inject as much color as you want in the shower curtain, accessories and other furnishings," she says.
- **Color can go on the walls.** Paint as much color as you want on the walls. Painting equipment from the bigger hardware stores now allows you to also add texture on walls, for example, through ragging or sponging. But if you prefer a clean, neat look, you can use bands of color near the ceiling and near the floor. Milan notes that paint lasts from five to seven years. Thus, one can be more flexible in his or her choice of shades.
- **Use furniture to make color statements.** One can inject color into the furniture too. A hot pink accent chair or an olive sofa immediately adds life to any room. The advantage of using sofas and chairs as vehicles for color is that they offer the homeowner flexibility. Once she tires of a certain shade, she can easily reupholster the piece in the shade that catches her eye at the moment.
- **Invest in the kitchen.** In smaller homes, the kitchen is often one of the first areas one sees upon opening the front door. For some of the San Antonio model units, Milan turns this feature into an advantage by retiling the kitchen area and adding colorful cabinet doors. By upgrading the kitchen and infusing it with color, the visitor's eye is drawn to the other end of the room and visual expanse is created.

For many, a home is one of the biggest investments one will ever make. It thus pays to protect this investment with projects that will increase its attractions, says Milan.

To view the model units, please call LPHI at 864-5744.



USE furniture to make color statements.

DESIGNERS advise investing in the flooring as well as the kitchen and bathroom tiles to increase the value of the home.

Bamboo cheaper alternative to steel in building houses

From page B2

munity patterned after the United Nations' "Habitat"—which is a centerpiece planning concept of housing with the livelihood center as a major component.

"This is an introduction of the United Nations-advocated planning scheme that was not implemented by our government 25 years ago," he said.

Casus' property in Los Baños already has informal settlers. Another 200 families will be coming from UP Los Baños to be part of the community.

The allowable cost for each housing unit with a floor area of 20 to 22 sq m (lot area of 40 sq m) as per NHMFC's CMP is P50,000. The project will be inaugurated in November. The beneficiary pays the government less than P500 a month for 25 years.

The property is near Lakewood Subdivision, an upscale development of Sta. Lucia Realty.

Bamboo tech not new

"The US Navy already uses bamboo for bridges and dike protection. The manuals of structural engineering is our basis for Star Sea's "bambookreto" system for roof, walls and flooring," said Casus.

The project also involves reengineering of indigenous soil or clay mixed with polymer plasticizer or binder to be fabricated with soil blocks reinforced by bamboo to become the wall, roof and floors of the reinforced concrete housing unit.

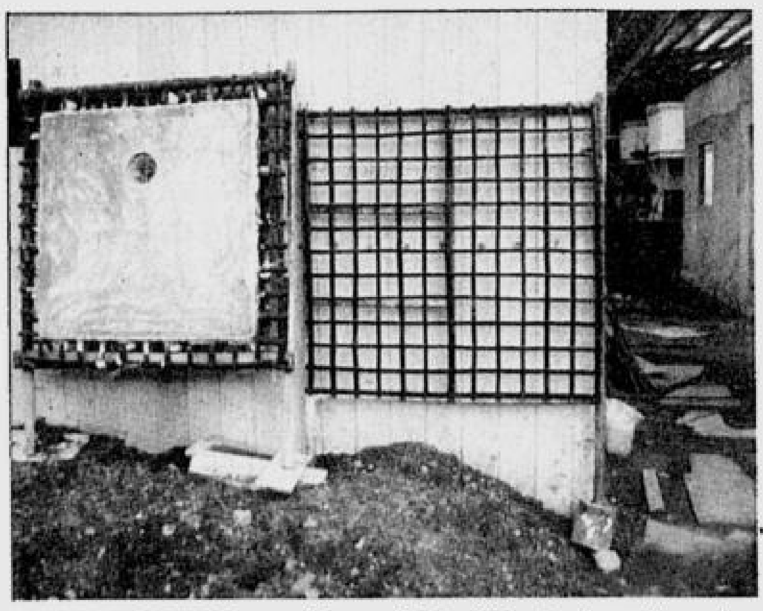
Said Casus: "The houses would be built with reinforced concrete made out of soil and bamboo. Each one is a concrete house in its highest definition. The way it is processed and constructed, there would be soil blocks sandwiched by bamboo trellises."

Structural engineer Estelo Tumblod recommended the setting up of a small bamboo processing plant to treat the bamboo for durability, for the drying process and for quality control.

"If it is for 100,000 houses (or more), you now must go for industrial plants with methods and systems," he said. "As of today, that is too sophisticated (for this project)," he added.

Strength tested

Said Rodolfo Talosig, Gawad Kalinga provincial coordinator for Laguna: "In our experience in building Gawad Kalinga projects, the prices of steel products and steel bars, even *yero* (metal sheets) easily go up. Finding a substitute for steel products such as bamboo definitely would reduce the cost of building the houses."



THE FABRICATION area with two finished "Bambookreto" panels ready for erection by the beneficiaries.

Are we sacrificing the strength of the structure if we replace the steel with bamboo support? "According to the tests conducted by the Adamson University, we are not sacrificing anything in terms of strengths and structure," he said.

Casus earlier showed durability tests conducted by the Department of Science and Technology for bamboo and concrete panel tests done by Adamson University.

Casus also said the houses would be termite-, earthquake- and typhoon-resistant, and "collaterable" for more than 25 years. This would qualify the informal settler to be able to borrow from Pag-Ibig, Social Security System or the Government Service Insurance System for an amortization of 25 years.

Vast supplies

"There are bamboo farms in Bulacan, Cavite and Batangas to supply furniture exports and local building demands for rural areas," said Casus while resting in his Hillsborough home in Alabang. He then showed a sample of the "bambookreto" used as fence of his property.

"The rural poor depend on bamboo because lumber cost is also high," he added.

Casus said his group Star Sea would claim responsibility for the integrity of the project's housing structures.

"The national building code stipulates that if in 15 years a building collapses due to a design flaw, then the architect and engineers would go to jail," he said.

The housing plans are scheduled for submission to the provincial city hall for approval and for evaluation of any structural defect.

Easy fabrication

Casus said the fabrication and erection of the bamboo structures can be done by the unskilled beneficiaries themselves. These services will also be their means of livelihood at minimum wage, considered sweat equity or accounted as their collateral for mortgage insurance.

"You cannot make an excuse that because it is for (former) squatters, it doesn't have to be properly designed or constructed. It has to be. We are responsible for this. So, it must be structurally strong," Casus stressed.

"Bambookreto" is derived from ferrocement, another technology that Casus innovated. Casus built a low-cost 40-sq-m house using ferrocement and soil block technology at the DOST compound. Ferrocement is basically made of chicken wire and cement.

Integrating germ killer into bathroom products

By Charles E. Buban

IMAGINE a surface or material that does not allow bacteria to grow but still safe for human contact.

Such technology was developed several years ago in the United States and is being widely used by several companies in their products ranging from apparel to kitchenware and bathroom fixture.

"Microban antibacterial agent is an additive that can be mixed to almost any product, rendering them safe from germs," said Preecha Pongsutinunt, technology's sales and marketing director for Asia. He added that shoes, clothes, food containers, chopping boards, knife handles and everything that needs to be free from germs can be applied with Microban.

With such a technology available in the market, it was only a matter of time before world leading bathroom product manufacturer American Standard adopted Microban technology in most of its products.

Much higher protection

More than any other piece of furniture in the house, bathroom fixtures obviously require a much higher protection against harmful bacteria. American Standard has already adopted our technology in a number of its products in America and Europe and even in the Middle East. I am glad that it is now available in this country," said Pongsutinunt who recently planed in from Thailand to witness the forging of a partnership with his company and American Standard's arm in the Philippines.

So how does Microban technology works?

Pongsutinun explained that Microban is an ingredient or additive homogeneously dispersed in the material during its manufacturing process phase to provide an added level of protection.

In the case of American Standards' products, the Microban additive is built into its plastic material in the case of its toilet seats, acrylic sheet of its bathtubs and glaze of its ceramic products.

Not washed off

"As a result, the Microban additive is not washed off or performance diminished in time. Since the additive is already incorporated, it should last until the useful life of the product," revealed Pongsutinunt.

But as it is able to kill bacteria, one concern arises—whether it is safe to humans.

Pongsutinunt explained that Microban additives work by inhibiting the growth of bacteria (that can cause stains, odors and disease) by penetrating and destroying their cell wall, thus killing them in the process.

"By disrupting this key cell function, the bacteria can no longer grow or reproduce," said Pongsutinunt.

No effect on humans

This Microban action, he explained, will not happen on human cells because its structure is much different from the bacteria's (human cell wall is much thicker).

"I should also add that for several years already Microban technology has been extensively used in the United States and Europe. Apart from that, several laboratory tests to demonstrate its effectiveness and safety reveal nothing that would lead to its being harmful to health or even to the environment," he assured.

Several bacteria

Several types of bacteria were tested against the Microban additive. They were

- Listeria found in raw or undercooked meat, poultry and fish, unpasteurized milk and cheese, soft cheese, in raw leafy vegetables and sometimes in deli cold cuts;
- Salmonella found in raw and undercooked meat, poultry, fish and eggs;
- E. coli found in contaminated water, unpasteurized milk, apple juice or cider; in raw or rare ground beef; in unwashed raw fruits and vegetables and can be passed from person to person;
- Staphylococcus aureus found in food handled by someone with infected cuts, pimples, nasal mucus or throat mucus.

"These are the key types that household members should be protected against and Microban showed positive action," he said.

Here in Southeast Asia, Microban technology was first introduced in Thailand three years ago as it was used by a number of companies there in a number of their products.

"Here in the Philippines, American Standard will have an exclusive right to use Microban anti-bacterial technology in its products which include toilet and toilet seats, acrylic bathtubs and ceramic products," Pongsutinunt clarified.

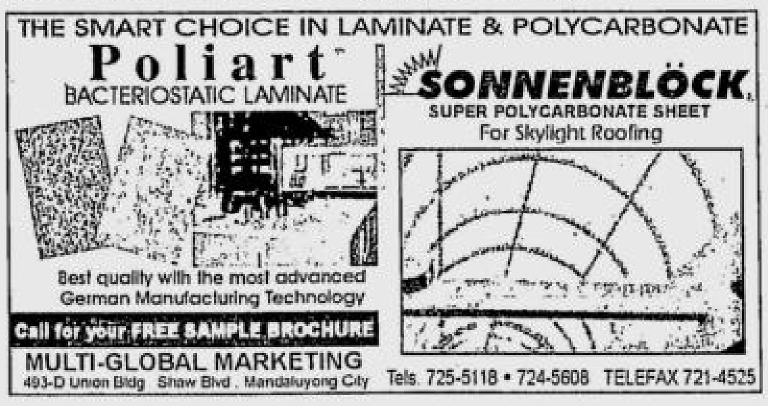
AMAZING STRUCTURES Soaring skyscrapers

IF YOU think Asian countries are trailing behind western countries when it comes to architectural technology and advancement, think again.

Since the late '90s, Asia has been home to the world's tallest buildings. In 1996, the Sears Tower in Chicago lost the title, after 20 years, to the 88-story Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, which measures 1,483 ft (or 452 m).

The Taipei 101, however, grabbed the title from the Petronas Towers with its completion in 2004. Its name stands for Technology, Art, Innovation, People, Environment and Identity, with 101 representing the concept of striving for beyond perfection.

This soaring skyscraper in Taiwan has 101 stories and measures 1,671 ft (or 509 m). Designed by C.Y. Lee & Partners, the Taipei 101 resembles a pagoda and is patterned after the number 8, a number considered lucky by traditional Chinese culture. *Dianne Villafuerte*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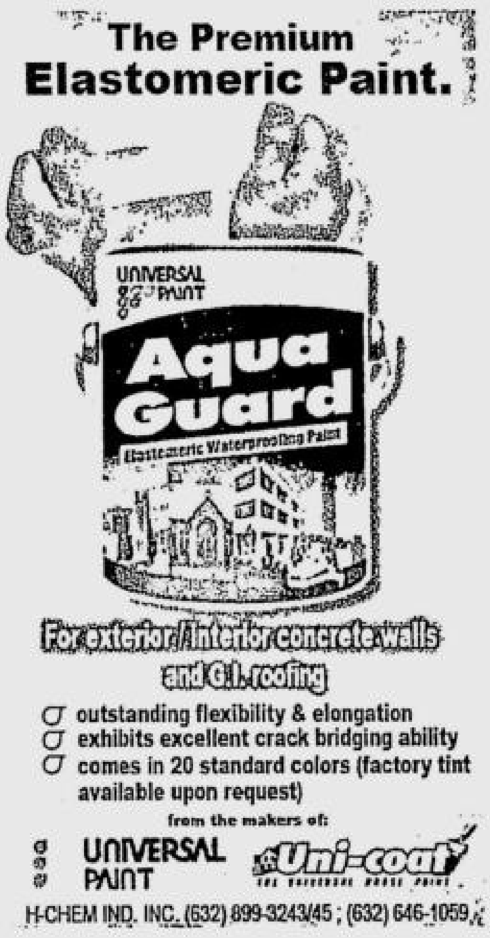
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Trust the wood flooring specialist

Sentricon protects Duty Free Fiesta Mall

DEARBORN Realty Corp. has been renting out its five-hectare prime land to Duty Free Fiesta Mall Philippines since 1997 when the tax-free shopping mecca transferred from its former, smaller site. Engineer Danilo Eduardo, manager of Dearborn, makes sure that engineering and maintenance needs of the tenants are met.

When the administration and logistics building of Duty Free Fiesta Mall began exhibiting signs of termite infestation, Dearborn quickly took steps to fix the problem.

Revolutionary technology

To prevent further damage, Dearborn turned to Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination system, a revolutionary technology created by Dow AgroSciences that protects famous landmarks and many homes and pieces of property across the globe. Environet Total Services Inc., an authorized operator of Sentricon, was called in to carry out the treatment.

Environet was established in May 2001 as a "total household service provider" and has performed a complement of home services from *lipat-bahay* to landscaping. In August 2002, Environet began specializing in pest management and continues to be the exclusive pest control company of Camella and Palmera Homes, Crown Asia Properties, Brittany Corp. and Tuscany Properties.

Within only two months of treatment, the termite colonies in the administration and logistics building of Duty Free were eliminated. "I will recommend Sentricon to other property owners," says Eduardo, "because Dearborn has tried it and really works."

Engineer Donjie Pealane, Environet technical head, advises customers to learn as much as they can about the anti-termite technology and products that they are using for their property. He shares that even though Sentricon can eliminate entire colonies in only a few months, some homeowners choose conventional chemical methods because they are daunted by the cost of initial treatment with Sentricon. But after the first year, Sentricon clients will only have to pay a small percentage of the original cost to prevent renewed termite activity. So over a period of, say, five years, the price of using Sentricon will be even lower than the combined cost of yearly chemical treatments and structural repairs. What's more, one is assured of the highest standard of safety since there is no chemical exposure to toxic vapors.

Commitment

According to Pealane, baiting represents the future of pest control. The bait material in Sentricon is hexaflumuron, the first pest-control product in the US to receive fast-track registration from the Environmental Protection Agency in the new Reduced Pesticide Risk category. Dow Agro/Sentricon was also awarded by the Clinton administration the US Presidential Green Chemistry Award for its commitment to keep the environment safe. Sentricon is odorless, nondisruptive and environment-friendly so it is ideal for homes, high-rises, restaurants, commercial centers, hospitals, hotels, schools, warehouses and museums.

When the landholder takes extra care of his/her estate, the property value increases and the owner enjoys many years of rewarding ties with the tenant.

Eduardo concludes, "As property owner, it is the duty of Dearborn to provide good service to our occupant through maintenance efforts like the Sentricon antitermite treatment. This is part of our commitment to Duty Free and its customers. And of course, we do it because we want to give our own property the best protection possible." For more details, please call Environet at 873-7209 or 0920-9244030 and Dow AgroSciences at 840-3874. You can also visit the website www.sentricon.com.

Knowing the basic concepts

By Dianne M. Villafuerte

DOORS which directly face each other creates hostile energy. Beds' headboards are more preferably placed against a wall. Overhead beams give the person sleeping directly underneath them a restless sleep. A main entrance which goes straight into a kitchen or bathroom can cause health problems. A white kitchen is most appropriate because it creates a feeling of openness.

These are just some of the "rules" of feng shui, the ancient Chinese art and science of life-space design. It incorporates Taoism, Chinese astrology, divination skills and local Eastern religious beliefs.

Feng shui (pronounced foong shway) is becoming more and more popular these days. And it is not just because Kris Aquino's most recent film goes by the same name.

Home and office owners, especially at this day and age, are in constant search of ways on how to improve or enhance their personal and professional lives, and this is where the tradition feng shui comes in.

Though it does not give us the assurance that an exact adherence to its instructions and ideas will definitely give us more successful and prosperous days, feng shui's primary purpose is to balance the energy in the places where we live or work. This energy, more commonly known in the feng shui world as "chi", "ch'I" or "qi" (and pronounced "chee"), is the "life force," the fundamental or primary energy that circulates around all things. In favor of health, peace of mind, contentment, wealth and fortune, even conception, this chi has to move freely, without constraint throughout a person's living and working space.

Personalized practice

The design of our surroundings has a crucial role in how chi flows and consequently, ultimately influences our subconscious over time. Those who practice feng shui know very well that severe and awkward angles or placement of doors and windows, some color combinations and other factors are capable of upsetting the flow of this vital energy which is supposed to be stable and continuous.

Feng shui does not end at simply arranging your home and office furniture and décor or installing doors and windows in accordance with its concepts. Contrary to what most of us know, it is a practice that is "personalized" to each individual. Many things are considered by the feng shui practitioner about the person who wants his or her house or workplace designed in keeping with the art and science of feng shui. It means that a person's birth chart—an intricately-detailed maze of zodiac signs, triagram charts, elemental charts, star combinations, phases, annual numbers and other divining tools—and other personal information, such as the person's traits and habits are analyzed first before the feng shui expert actually recommends how the person can balance his or her space's chi.

One can still effectively apply feng shui without a feng shui practitioner though. Common sense is all that's needed. If you feel that a particular arrangement lets you breathe and brings out all the positive energies in you, then there is no need to consult an expert since obviously, that layout works for you. Then again, if the position of your bed or couch, even after following the advice of a practitioner, makes you feel ill at ease and uncomfortable, move it to what suits you best.

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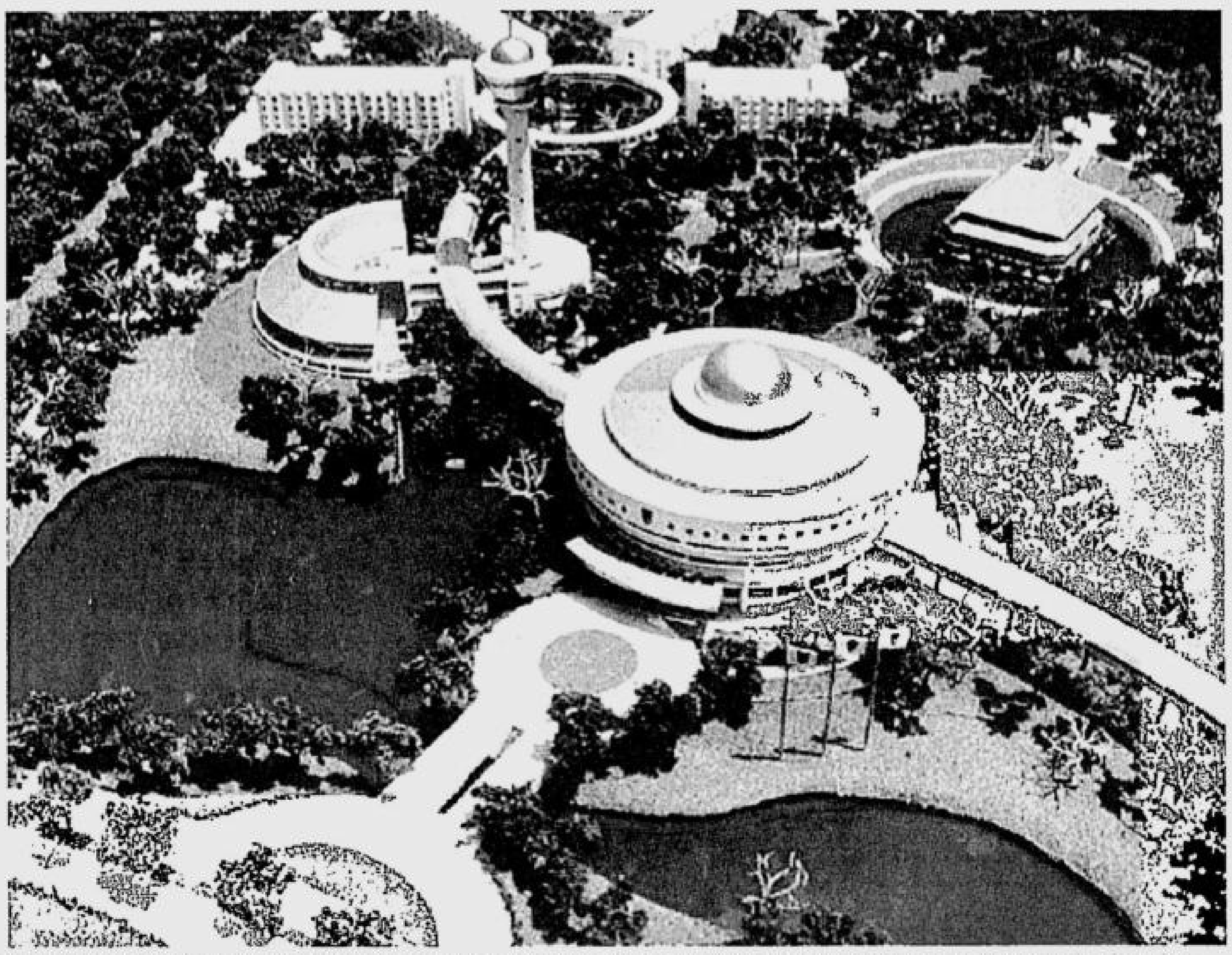
Green architecture leads the way to a better world

COMMENTARY

By Amado P. de Jesus Jr.



PASSIVE cooling or natural ventilation and lighting are the key features of the Shinawatra University. Extensive landscaping and cascading water help reduce the heat.

THE GLASS-COVERED pathway of RCBC maximizes natural light to save electricity. It would have required 240 bulbs at 35 watts each to produce as much light.

THIS year, countless people will be hospitalized in Metro Manila for illnesses due to unhealthy buildings.

The World Health Organization estimates that 30 percent of all buildings cause headaches, nausea, rashes and asthmatic attacks due to the indoor presence of toxins, contaminants and lack of ventilation.

Lots of money this year will be lost in sick leaves and job-incurred diseases. Productivity will drop because of this.

These are all symptoms of what is known as the sick building syndrome.

Did you know that the quality of air you breathe in your home or workplace is dictated by the type of materials you use for your walls, flooring, paint and other finishes? Today's home or workplace uses many products and systems that may be toxic. They may release unhealthy gases and substances into the air many years after construction.

This can be greatly reduced if adjustments and substitutions are made in the materials used.

Reemerging movement

The sick building syndrome is only one of the major concerns of a reemerging movement that is revolutionizing the way buildings are designed and constructed. This movement is called green architecture or sustainable design.

What is green architecture? "Is it about plants and landscaping?" This is the initial reaction of many people when they hear about green architecture. Actually it is a catch-all phrase that means much more than plants.

Green architecture means designing and constructing buildings with minimal impact on the environment. It also means designing and constructing healthy buildings—healthy for the planet and for the the people.

Not really new

It started 40 years ago but was largely ignored then and misconstrued as unnecessary, largely because fuel prices then were cheap. But as more and more resources are used up faster than they are being replenished, and words like global-warming, pollution and loss of habitat have become daily news jargon, people have remembered the practical, commonsense approach of green architecture.

Green architecture is not really new. In the Philippines, during the energy crisis in the 1970s, the government launched a program to initiate innovative designs of energy-efficient buildings. Unfortunately, this was not sustained and so the green movement fizzled out.

In the United States, when the energy crisis hit, many architects began to innovate due to escalating fuel costs.

President Carter installed solar collectors on the White House and initiated tax credits for energy-saving buildings.

In 1981 Ronald Reagan became president and quickly removed the collectors from the White House.

When Bill Clinton became president, energy issues were in the forefront. This was the start of green architecture in the United States.

In Europe, the green movement started earlier due to their higher fuel costs. This probably accounts for Europe's prominence in the field, with Germany leading the pack.

Green architecture idea

The basic concept of green architecture is quite simple. We should seek solutions that minimize energy consumption and maximize the performance of building components and systems.

In other words: let's use up less electricity by building smarter buildings—tap the natural energy of the sun, the predictable changing seasons, morning and nighttime temperatures, natural air movement. Let's eliminate harmful poisons from our daily lives. Let's build our habitat as though we were living in the healthy and natural outdoors.

How is it done?

In architecture, these are the five general concerns of a "green" design:

- **Indoor air quality.** Many of the products and materials used in construction may be toxic. Ventilation systems should be designed to provide maximum levels of fresh air to avoid or prevent mold buildup.
- **Energy efficiency.** By using solar, wind and other forms of technology, there will be less dependence on fuel which is nonrenewable. "Nonrenewable" means that which cannot be replenished or increased in supply such as oil, coal and aluminum.

Even lighting—the most taken-for-granted staple of our homes—can stand improvement. Using efficient lighting fixtures can dramatically reduce conventional electric use.

- **Green materials.** Green building materials are nontoxic and are made from recycled materials. They are also energy-efficient, water-efficient and do not harm the environment during their manufacture.
- **Green building systems.** Building systems that improve green architecture is concerned with outdoor air quality. Conserving water, reducing pollution and improving landscape practices are major concerns of green architecture.

Examples of green building systems are photovoltaic cells, solar water heaters, low-flush water closets and fixtures and water recycling systems.

The design of a building should adapt to its site location, vegetation and climate patterns. It should reflect local or regional natural features and respond to local climatic conditions. This also means "being in harmony" with your particular environment.

A very good example of a green building system is the rainwater harvesting system which should have been widely adopted in our country. Water collected is stored then pumped into the fixtures of the house or building.

- **Good design.** This is the consideration of what we are leaving to those who will follow us.

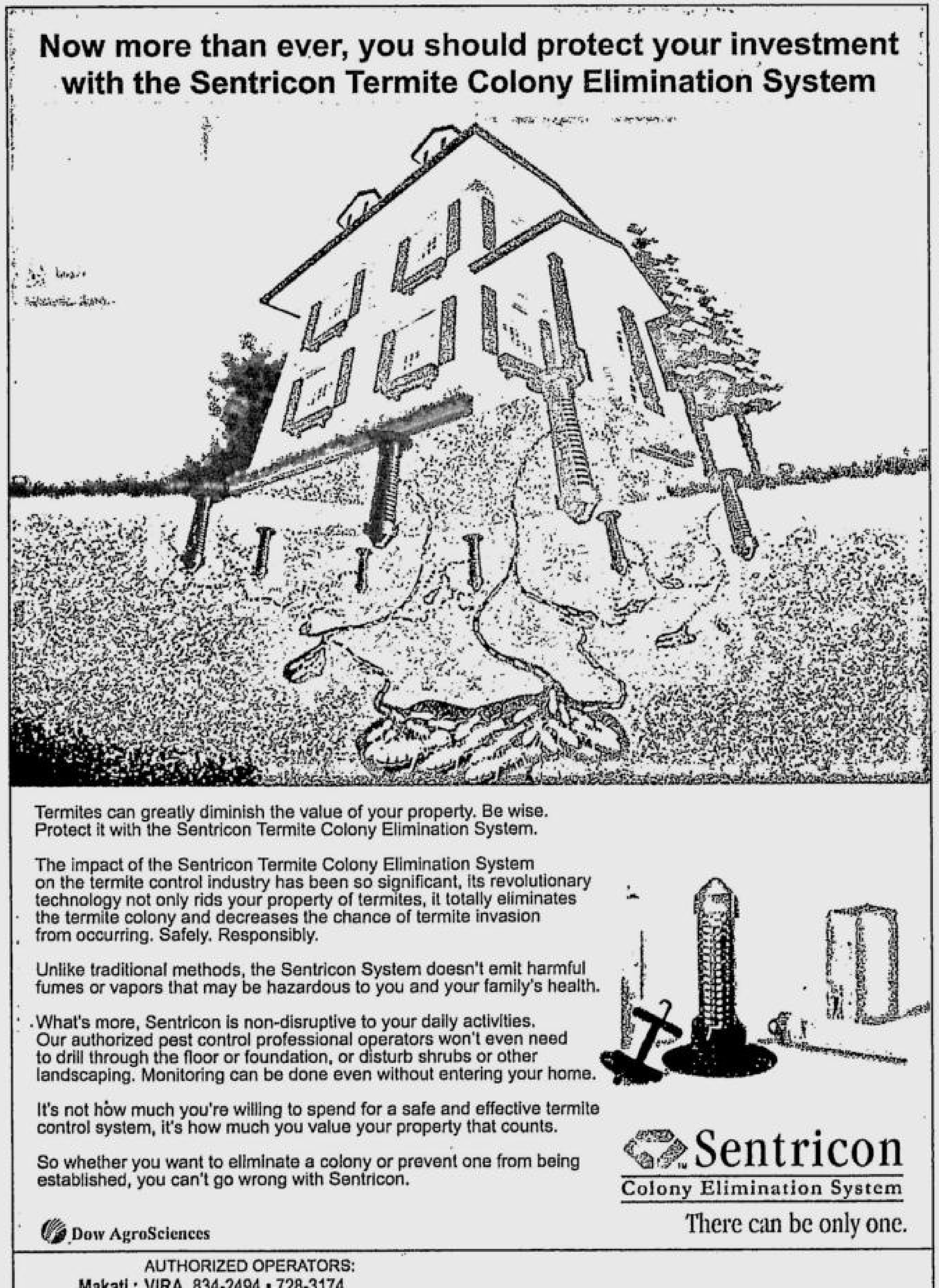
This means buildings with longevity, ease of use, reuse and beauty. In other words, buildings that will require less energy, less repair and more value in the future.

Benefits

Green buildings mean higher sales prices and rent with lower operating costs. They are cheaper to heat or cool and light up. Since they consume so much less energy, they produce less pollution.

And most importantly, they are healthier places to work or live in.

(The author is the vice chair of the board of judges of the Asean Energy Awards and the founding chair of the Green Architecture Movement of UAP. For comments or inquiries, e-mail archadejesus@yahoo.com)



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The logical way of owning a condo

THE LIVING room of each condo unit at South of Market has superior furnishing.

SEARCHING for a home in the more upscale condominiums in Metro Manila can be frustrating. Burgeoning projects in Rockwell, Fort Bonifacio and Eastwood City seem promising.

All of them are being hyped as having great location, fabulous-looking model units and state-of-the-art building features. But most of these developments really come with a high price tag and steep payment terms. Other units are even delivered empty and completely bare.

Uniquely, one project in Bonifacio Global City stands out among the rest—South of Market or Soma. Not only is it priced 30 percent lower than competition, but also all of its units also come fully fitted and completely furnished. Now, it boils down to choice… Soma or *nada* (nothing)?

Breakthrough development

From the developers of Essensa East Forbes, recognized as the best residential building in the Philippines, comes another breakthrough development—South of Market or Soma. Situated in a prime location in the Bonifacio Global City and just a stone's throw away from the newest shopping and transportation hub called Market! Market!, this chic 37-story twin-tower residential embraces the fundamental needs of today's sophisticated city dweller. From its superb location, developer's track record and building quality to its revolutionary concepts in superior conveniences, comfort, features and entertainment.

According to developer Century-Properties Meridien Development Group chair Jose EB Antonio, Soma breaks new ground by taking the conventional and familiar ideas about a home and taking it all a notch higher. "After exceeding expectations with Essensa East Forbes, we challenged our team to once again come up with a fresh perspective," says Antonio.

South of Market offers a value-added luxury home while investing in a much lower price. Antonio further adds, "We even challenged the way we did business by making our buyers our partners through a unique co-development approach," he explains. As a co-development project, Soma is VAT-, documentary stamps- and transfer taxes-free, which translates to huge savings for investors.

Also, moving in to Soma is worry- and hassle-free since it is the only fully fitted and completely furnished condominium in the country. Living in Soma starts immediately upon turnover. No messy fittings. No additional costs and time wasted in buying appliances and furniture. "It's the new way of owning a condo," declares Antonio.

The city is its playground

South of Market offers the sophistication and convenience of city living as it places every corner of the global city at its command day and night. Walk to work, dine at the hottest restaurant, shop at the trendiest mall or catch the finest concert. The best of everything is only minutes from your doorstep!

Located at the Crescent Park West residential district, South of Market is also very near international schools, retail and dining establishments, golf and sports facilities and offices. Also in the offing are a hospital, a church and IT and business hub. This grand residence also takes full advantage of Bonifacio Global City's advanced networks and road systems. There is easy access to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Makati Business District, C-5 and outlying communities.

Well planned for a life well lived

From the first step inside this luxurious property, you'll notice the unmatched quality in design and construction.

Bask in pure majesty with South of Market's distinctive architecture, quality interiors and design friendly features that you'll never want to live without. Luxury suites are offered in 1, 2 and 3 bedroom configurations ranging from 39 to 115 square meters. Its airy layout combined with floor to ceiling windows and balcony gives an unmistakably unique cozy feeling.

To complement the living in style of Soma, sophisticated facilities include concierge and doorman services, THX theater movie room, function rooms, owner's lounge, game room, health and fitness center, swimming pool, housekeeping, laundry services and driver's lounge. A commercial area at the ground floor will offer distinct and essential services to Soma residents.

Superior furnishings in each unit are air conditioning and bedframes for each bedroom; kitchen set includes kitchen cabinetry, refrigerator, cooktop, oven, rangehood and microwave; living room set includes sofa, coffee table and chairs, flatscreen TV, DVD player and entertainment sound system; dining room set includes a dining table and chairs.

Soma is for smart buyers who wish to get a more luxurious home while investing in a much lower price. Unit prices start at only P2.9 million and come with attractive payment terms. Compared to nearest competition, Soma offers 30 percent more and priced 30 percent lower.

Few residences in Makati capture the lifestyle of today's smart city dweller quite like South of Market. "You can never ask for a more ideal value proposition," declares Meridien Development Group CEO Ricardo Cuerva. Soma is undeniably the best buy around.

Model unit available for viewing at the 6th floor, Pacific Star Building, Sen. Gil Puyat corner Makati Avenues.

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Creative Director **Tim Yap**

Super!Countdown
70 days 'til X'mas

1 night with Nyoy Volante and Mannos page D2

7 American Idols page G2

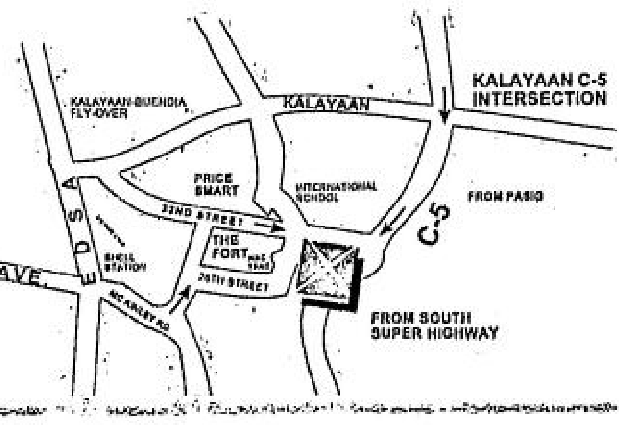
15 page C4 Supahstar

24 hours with Jasmine Trias page F1

25 page I1 girls like you

Produced by TIM YAP
Photography: PAOLO PIÑEDA
Styling: ROSARIO HERRERA
Hair and Makeup: PIANDRE SALON using L'OREAL products
Cover Star: MTV SUPAHSTARS

FASHION ICON TINA MARISTELA-OCAMPO DISCOVERED THAT THE WORLD'S MOST COLORFUL FLOWERS BLOSSOM A FEW BLOCKS AWAY.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THE WOMAN BEHIND FASHION STORES LIKE THE BLACK SHOP, ANONYMOUS AND MIX SHOPS REGULARLY AT MARKET! MARKET! HERE SHE PLUCKS THOUSANDS OF FINDS FROM FLOWERS TO FRUITS AND VEGETABLES TO ALMOST ANYTHING COLORFUL. NO WONDER TINA'S BLOOMING THESE DAYS.

Mic mo 'to

We don't want to call them wannabes. We'd rather call them would-bes.

Original artwork by Jason Moss
Text by Gino de la Paz and Tals Diaz

TESTING one-two. Not so long ago, a bunch of unknown, starry-eyed kids who went by the names Justin Timberlake, Christina Aguilera and Usher Raymond took a number and lined up for the chance to appear on "Star Search." American Idols Kelly Clarkson, Ruben Studdard and Clay Aiken also went through the same ordeal and then some, since they had to deal with an A-level prick called Simon Cowell. Now that they're legit singing superstars—high-profile aliens who have the power to move millions of records—it's a stretch to imagine them enduring round after round of excruciating and sometimes humiliating face-time with both the judges and the public. But they did, and—bam!—they're now household names.

This assembly line approach to discovering new talent also made its way to the Philippines (surprise, surprise!) with the onslaught of GMA's "Star Struck," ABS-CBN's "Star In A Million" and even MTV's "Supahstar." Filled with the same promise of instant fame and a small fortune, these local shows produced the current crop of emerging Pinoy performers, among them Sarah Geronimo, Erik Santos and Rainier Castillo. Along the way, these large-lunged entertainers hypnotized millions of TV-watching eyeballs and somehow proved that, hey, if they did it, so can you. But really, why does it seem like everyone's making a career out of this whole reality talent search business? What's the attraction?

Po-pomo Cinderella

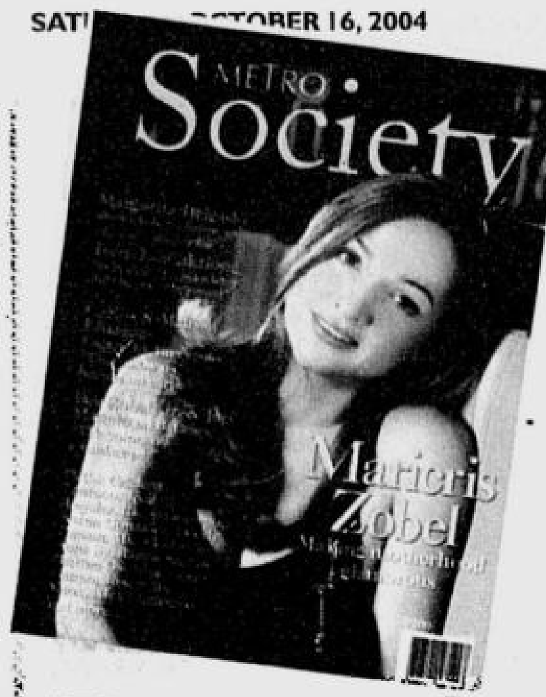
We'd like to think of such contests as a post-post-modern Cinderella fantasy done in a Pinoy setting. You know the yarn: Boy or girl can carry a tune. Boy or girl joins singing contest. Boy or girl blows the competition away and wins said contest due to highly precise techniques like vocalizing while half-submerged in the Pasig River. In certain cases, Boy even becomes Girl, but not before walking away with a little pocket money, and the title: "Star of (insert euphemism here)." It's a real fairy tale, right?

But on a more serious note, it's amazing to see how these would-be platinum players take auditions, eliminations and proclamations to a whole new level and treat these competitions as if their lives depended on it. Perhaps, they get all worked up for a good reason. After all, they get up on that stage knowing that that moment to shine could very well be their last or just the start of their 15 minutes of Warhollan fame.

Behind the would-bes

Cynical viewers may see these awestruck competitors as mere lab rats in an elaborate big-budget experiment on human behavior. However, if one cares to dig deeper and really listen to the stories behind the would-bes, you'll hear a whole symphony of reasons why they chose to be willing pawns in the reality game. When the MTV crew visited Dodong, a finalist in their "Supahstar" search in Davao who works for the Mindanao Association for the Blind, they were immersed in his day-to-day reality: delivering *ulam* to neighborhood shanties in Barangay Kursing Bayabas. This is going to be the first time he'll be singing in front of an audience who can actually see him. For him, to be at the center of the "Supahstar" spotlight is truly the fulfillment of a dream.

Dreams... now isn't that the common link that binds people from Justin, Britney and Usher to Sarah, Erik and even Dudong? To let your passion triumph over all odds, be they economic, social, or personal, is turning your dream into a reality.



'Beyond Tattling'

METRO SOCIETY PROFILE

Official Title: Metro Society
Frequency: Quarterly
Retail Price: P200
No. of Pages: 128 pp. including cover
Size: 9 x 12 in.
Release Date: October 2004

METRO Society, ABS-CBN Publishing's newest title and latest spin-off to METRO Magazine, is a quarterly publication that will feature the lifestyles of Manila's top personalities.

The sections of Metro Society will feature selected people from society either at work, at their vacation homes, entertaining at home or at a restaurant, on vacation or simply chatting with fellow friends. The reader will be able to experience and be a part of the lives of Manila's most prominent, elusive and highly exclusive few.

Regular sections include Society pages where the best parties in Metro Manila, Davao and Cebu are held. Society editor Raul Manzano heads an exclusive team of contributing society editors; Dawn Zulueta Lagdameo for Davao; Mary Anne Aboitiz for Cebu and Philip Cruz for Metro Manila. Entertainment editor is socialite Mia Borromeo who, in every issue of Metro Society, will not only take the reader into the private homes of Manila's crème de la crème but also actually experience their lifestyles.

The reader will be a part of exclusive sit-down dinners with friends or business associates and will also learn the entertaining secrets of featured hostesses. Recipes, and other how to's will be shared to the readers of the magazine. Each issue will feature at least three of Manila's top hostesses and exclusive dinner parties.

Society will also feature Manila's top CEOs in a section called CEO Profile. The reader will get an in-depth look into the personality of Manila's business leaders.

Society's reader will also be updated on the latest must haves of the rich and famous, as well as fashion and beauty trends.

Art and Culture editors, Bea Zobel jr. and Inno Manalo will take the reader into the world of Philippine art appreciation. While in every issue, the reader will get a glimpse into the vacation album of a couple in an exclusive destination.

A section called Generations will trace the heritage of Manila's oldest and most prominent families. Every issue will feature a prominent family's history and ancestry.

Exclusive features will highlight each issue of the magazine and every cover will feature a prominent figure in society.

What makes Metro Society different from the rest is that you don't just read a report or collage of the social scene in Manila. As the reader, you will actually live the lives of these people who shape our social scene, and one will participate and learn from them and be able to live the good life as well.

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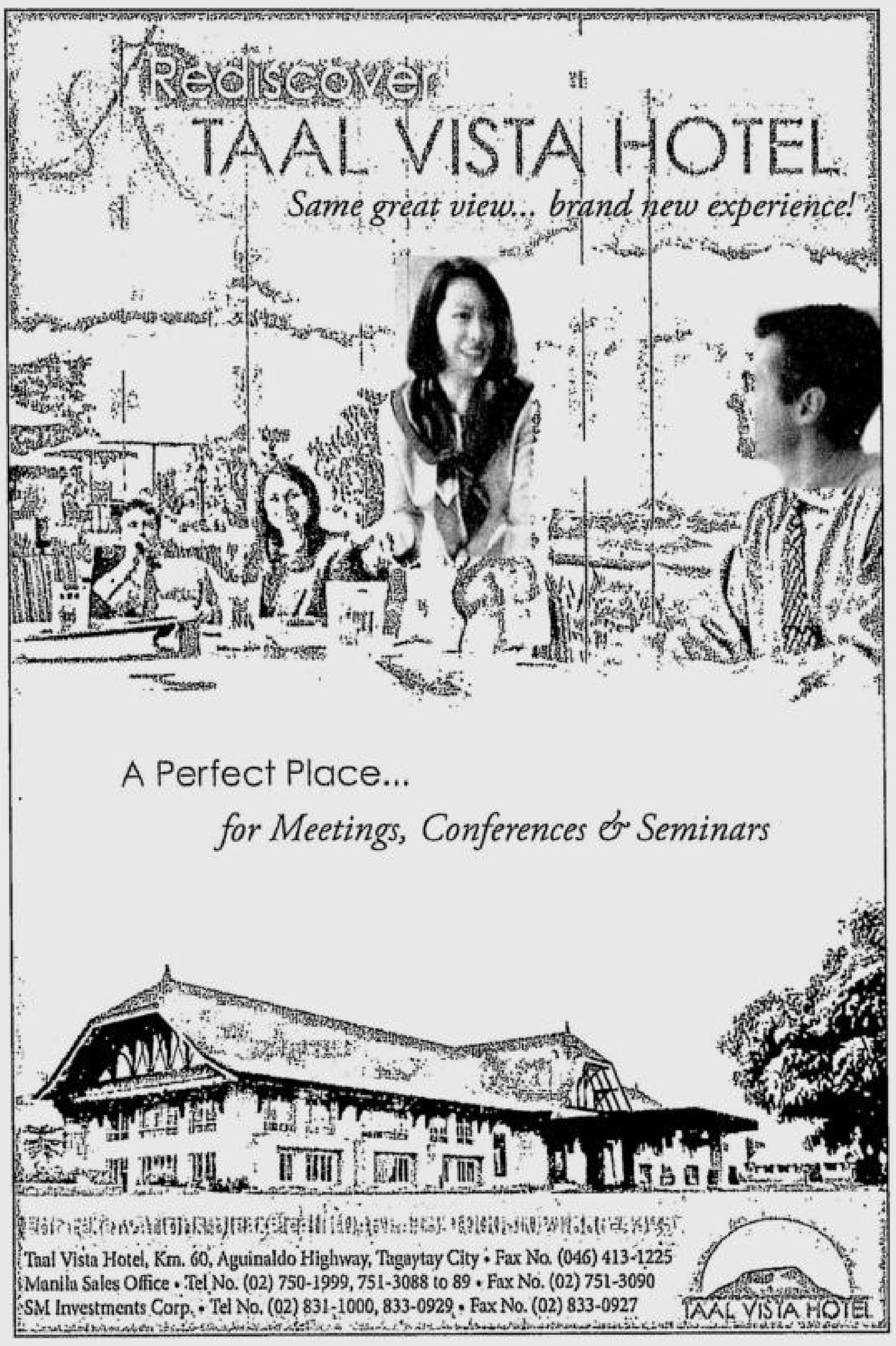
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SINGER AND TV HOST OGIE ALCASID DISCOVERED THAT HE CAN FISH, COOK AND EAT SEAFOOD PRACTICALLY NEXT DOOR.

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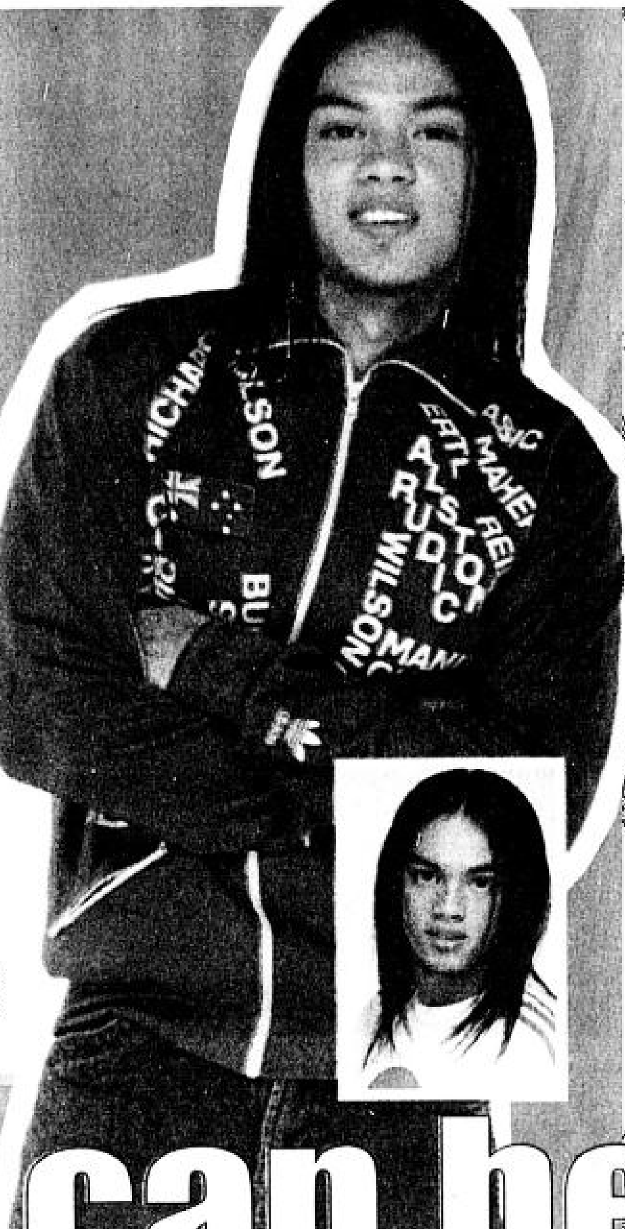
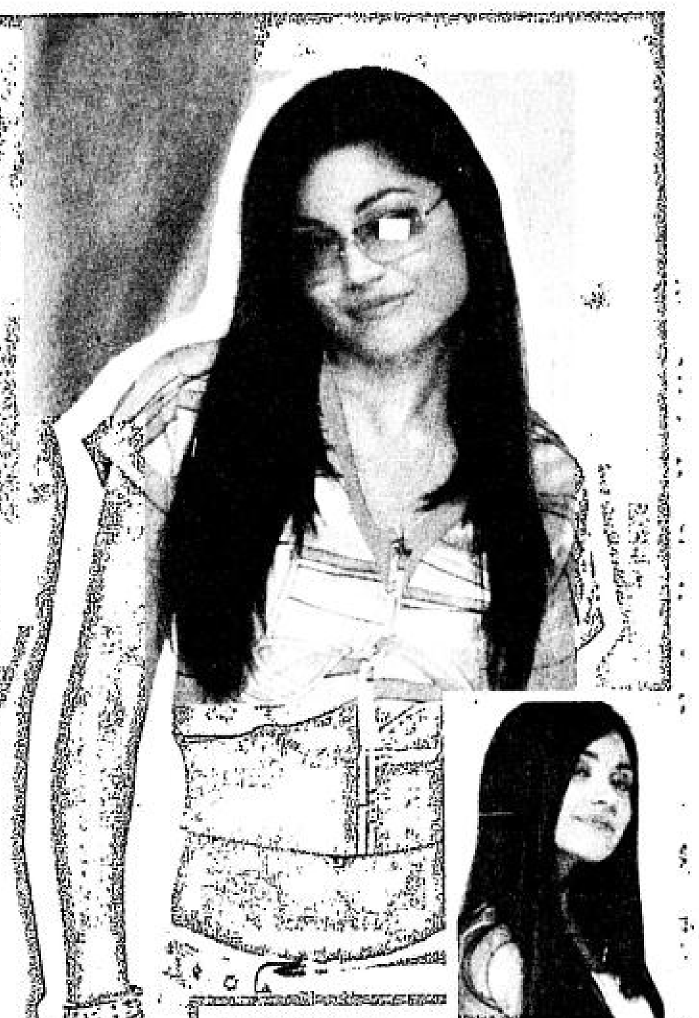
THIS SINGER-COMPOSER-TV HOST-ACTOR EATS HIS FILL AT THE FIESTA MARKET IN MARKET! MARKET! OCCASIONALLY, HE CHOOSES TO DINE AT THE FOOD CHOICES OR AT ANY OF THE RESTAURANTS BEFORE HE SAMPLES THE OFFERINGS AT THE CINEMAS OR TIMEZONE. AND THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE THOUSANDS OF TASTEFUL FINDS AT MARKET! MARKET! NO WONDER HE SINGS, "BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG DUMATING?"

KRIZIA
It Pick
Full name: Krizia Daya
Age: 19
Hails from: New York City and Marikina
People say I look like: Angelu de Leon
What makes me feel like a Supahstar: The traveling, partying, eating, being completely taken care of, and waking up at 6 am everyday.



KOK
It Pick
Full name: Jonelle Nikolai Crisostomo
Age: 19
Hails from: Quezon City
Seduction song: "Smooth" by Carlos Santana/Rob Thomas
People say I look like: Legolas
What people don't know about you: I'm serious and romantic.



RONNIE
It Pick
Full name: Veronica Scott
Age: 20
Hails from: Sydney, Australia
People say I look like: Anne Curtis
My hidden talent: dancing

They can be Supahstars!

Exploring the concrete jungles of Cebu, Davao, Baguio and Manila, I have heard more than 500 hopefuls sing their heart out to me.

Out of these "would-be's," we have narrowed the search to the final 15 stellar standouts.

Unlike any other reality talent searches, MTV Supahstar put a little twist into it by pitting us—the casting directors, namely Radha, Andrew E and myself—against each other. We each picked our five personal bets, segregating them into different roles—diva, soul sistah, pop bro, rap stah and 'It' pick.

Tim Yap

Each week finds the competition getting hotter. My bets? Ice Malazarte, for one, for her soulful and distinctly Filipina voice. Crizel Bañez for her striking performance (she looks like Nina, too.) And then there's Dodong Pasagad from Davao—watch out for him, he will conquer your screens and hearts with his talent!

Another dude from Davao, Buboy Kimpo, who is a radio DJ is my favorite rap stah; and Kok Crisostomo, my "It" pick—who is an aspiring singer/model on his last year of studies at UP Diliman, taking up Geology, and running for cum laude while entrenched in the competition. How's that for multi-tasking?

Super! predicts that the 15 people you see on this spread will be the next supahstars!

SUPAHSTARS/ C6

REIN
Soul Sistah
Full name: Reinaflor Layug
Age: 19
Hails from: Baguio City
My 'killer' karaoke song: "A Whole New World"
People say I look like: Ana Roces, Sandra Bullock and Radha
My hidden talents: I play the guitar and compose my own songs

ICE
Soul Sistah
Full name: Iris Malazarte
Age: 18
Hails from: Angeles City
People say I look like: my dad
What makes you feel like a Supahstar: My attitude. I think I was born to become a SUPAHSTAR!
My hidden talents: I write scripts and direct plays and short films.

KUKIE
Soul Sistah
Full name: Marichor Broñoso
Age: 20
Hails from: Pasig City
People say I look like: Ara Mina, Mickey Ferriols, Rufa Mae Quinto, LJ Moreno
What makes me feel like a supahstar: my extraordinary singing voice, my charm and the Lord's will
My hidden talents: dancing, acting, directing

OWEN
Pop Bro
Full name: Owen Cartagena
Age: 25
Hails from: Cebu City
My 'killer' karaoke song: "Nice and Slow" by Usher
People say I look like: Mac Cardona of the Green Archers (if I shave my head)
My hidden talents: I can play the guitar, bass, keyboards and drums. I can also choreograph dance steps.

DODONG
Pop Bro
Full name: Dodong Pasagad
Age: 25
Hails from: Davao City
My 'killer' karaoke song: "Kiss" by Tom Jones
People say you look like: Tom Jones
My hidden talent: massaging
What people don't know about you: I'm romantic!

KEN
Pop Bro
Age: 21
Full name: Kenneth Dingle
Hails from: Baguio City
People say I look like: Jimboy, Franco Laurel, Luis Alandy
My hidden talent: Culinary Arts

Super career dictionary

By Gino de la Paz and Tals Diaz

Shoulder devil

The counterpoint to one's shoulder angel or conscience; usually responsible for pushing a office drone to steal supplies or embezzle money; bad

Gas-a-load

Generously passing gas to friends and loved ones while in the workplace

Urbanalities

Repeated dullness or predictability from living in the city

Dog-eat-dogma

A relentless desire to climb the ladder of success by taking work-related competition way too seriously

Frazy

A contraction of friggin' and crazy; can be used to describe a typical day at the office

Serial entrepreneur

Not an enterprising young killer but someone who starts up many businesses

Moneytalkracy

The reigning upper-crust in the Philippines; Manila's so-called 500

Career ADHD

Switching jobs in rapid succession; common among recent college grads and twentysomethings in general

Flexible hours

Work 55 hours; get paid for 37.5; a misrepresentation in your contract

Getting into bed with someone

This doesn't necessarily mean sex but rather, getting to know a colleague better. Well, yes, that could be entirely sex

Water cooler moment

Catching up on non-work related issues, a.k.a *chismis*, during brief breaks

Generation Esque

Pop cultural deja vu; uncanny resemblance to icons from past eras

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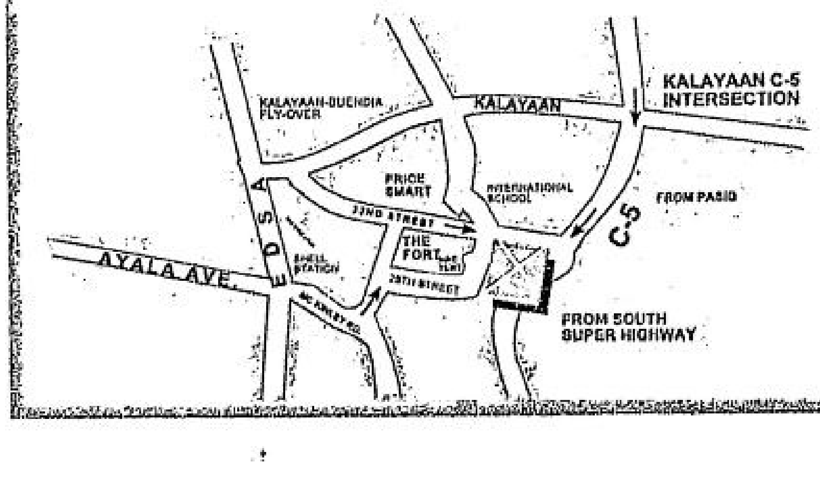

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They can be Supahstars!

From page C4

SITTI

Diva
Full name: Sitti Katrina Navarro
Age: 19
Hails from: Las Piñas City
My 'killer' karaoke song: "Crazy for You" by Madonna
People say I look like: Tanya Garcia
What people don't know about me: I'm usually reserved and *mahinhin* but I really let loose on the dance floor.
Most memorable Supahstar moment: For our production number, I wore fishnet stockings!

IDA

Diva
Full name: Farida Fajardo
Age: 20
Hails from: Cainta. Rizal
People say I look like: Aya Medel, Kaye Abad, Angelu de Leon
What makes me feel like a supahstar: Whenever I sing, people listen, and they ask for more.
My hidden talent: acting

CRIZEL

Diva
Full name: Criselda Bañez
Age: 22
Hails from: Quezon City
People say I look like: Nina
My hidden talents: I design clothes and I'm good at putting on makeup
Most memorable Supahstar moment: When they cut my hair and colored it! I didn't recognize myself!

MATT

Rapstah
Full name: Matt Jefferson Panganiban
Age: 22
Hails from: Batangas City
People say I look like: Jay R
You can also call me: God's Will
My hidden talent: Musical arrangement
What people don't know about you: The songs I write are based on my experiences.
Local artists I really want to work with: APO Hiking Society

JHIGGS

Rapstah
Full name: Emerson Lopez
Age: 23
Hails from: Baguio City "Northside!"
My hidden talents: I can act, dance and play badminton.

BUBOY

Rapstah
Full name: Philip Kimpo Jr.
Age: 22
Hails from: Los Angeles, CA, and Davao City
People say I look like: Vandolph
My hidden talents: I can cook and play the guitar

L'OREAL's new managing director David Ennes flanked by Shu Uemura's Xeng Zulueta and Tina Tinio

CENTEX spokesperson Kitkat Zobel and Fernando Zobel

SUPER!'S Gino de la Paz

TINA Maristela-Ocampo and L'Oreal's Leica Carpo

MAURICE Arcache and Aimee Marcos

STEVE Tirona and Michael Sallentes

MARIKO Jacinto and JM Rodriguez

PIA CABREIRA and Phoem Barranda

AMINA Aranaz and Jenni Epperson

KATIE Perrot, Agoo Bengzon and Victor Consunji

RICKY Vicencio and Ivarluski Aceron

MARCEL Crespo

Turning Japanese

ELLEN Nishiumi of Oh! Tokyo would've had a field day last week in what could have been the biggest beauty revolution this side of Oh! Manila. Why, you ask? Shu Uemura Philippines launched the Shu Uemura Limited Edition Cleansing Oils by Ai Yamaguchi. The cosmetic brand combined the worlds of beauty, art and fashion into one venue to celebrate a project that helps create a brighter future for underprivileged children.

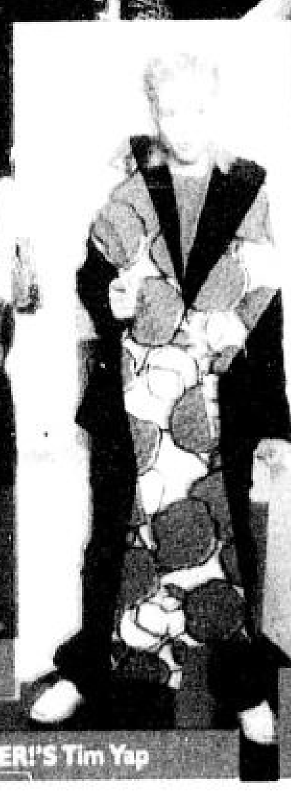
At the spanking new Ayala Museum, Shu Uemura and Centex (Center for Excellence in Public Elementary Education) forged a lasting partnership that helps develop Centex's 1,000 children by introducing them to art.

By hooking with up-and-coming artist Ai Yamaguchi, known for her modern-retro animé style, Shu Uemura has transformed the oil bottles into works of art. Proceeds from the sales of the Ai Yamaguchi Cleansing Oils will benefit the Centex art program.

Animé-like host Tessa Prieto-Valdes and local Astroboy Tim Yap took attendees on a journey into the world of Ai Yamaguchi. Centex spokesperson Kitkat Zobel, Centex director Carol Atacador and Shu Uemura brand manager Tina Tinio shared the behind-the-scenes of the tie-up. Guests also bid on premium Shu Uemura and Ai Yamaguchi artwork along with Centex-commisioned works by Filipino artists Anita Magsaysay-Ho, Mauro Malang and Romulo Galicano.

With "Creativity Without Boundaries" as the theme, the night gathered artists, fashionistas, beauty enthusiasts and businessmen together to salute outer, and most importantly inner beauty. Hai!

TRACIE Anglo



SUPER!'S Tim Yap

GRACIOUS event host Tessa Prieto-Valdes

PUEY Quiñones

JOEY Samson

SUPAHSTAR

AIRING DATES

Premiere: Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Replays: Sundays at 6 p.m. and Tuesdays at 3 p.m.

EPISODE GUIDE

SOUL SISTAH FACE-OFF

Episode 7 (October 13, 17, 19)

Are they as bootylicious as Beyoncé? Can they bare their souls like Alicia? Watch Ice, Kukie, and Rein face-off and see which soul sistah has the most flava!

RAP STAH FACE-OFF

Episode 8 (October 20, 24, 26)

Get caught up in the action as Buboy, Jhiggs, and Matt unleash their skillz in this freestyle rap face-off!

DIVA FACE-OFF

Episode 9 (October 27, 31, November 2)

Hold on to your seats as divas Crizel, Ida, and Sitti show off their breathtaking belting skills.

POP BRO FACE-OFF

Episode 10 (November 3, 7, 9)

They can croon like Usher and groove like Justin. See how Dodong, Ken, and Owen spin R&B and pop into their heart-melting repertoire.

IT PICK FACE-OFF

Episode 11 (November 10, 14, 16)

What makes them tick? Once your eyes are on Kok, Ronnie, and Krizia, it's impossible to look away. They each have the X-factor that'll take them to supahstardom.

FACE-OFF RECAP

Episode 12 (November 17, 21, 23)

If you missed some of the past face-offs, here's your chance to catch up!

ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS

Episode 13 (November 24, 28, 30)

The votes are in! Who's going to make it to the top 5 and what happens next? There's more to come because the road to supahstardom doesn't stop here.

MAKING THE BAND

Episode 14 - 16

Follow the 5 winners as they take their first steps towards becoming true-blue supahstars. See them struggle as they learn the moves, record the songs, and film their very own music video!

HOW TO VOTE?

How can viewers vote for their favorite supahstars?

1) SMS (exclusively for Smart and Talk 'N Text subscribers):

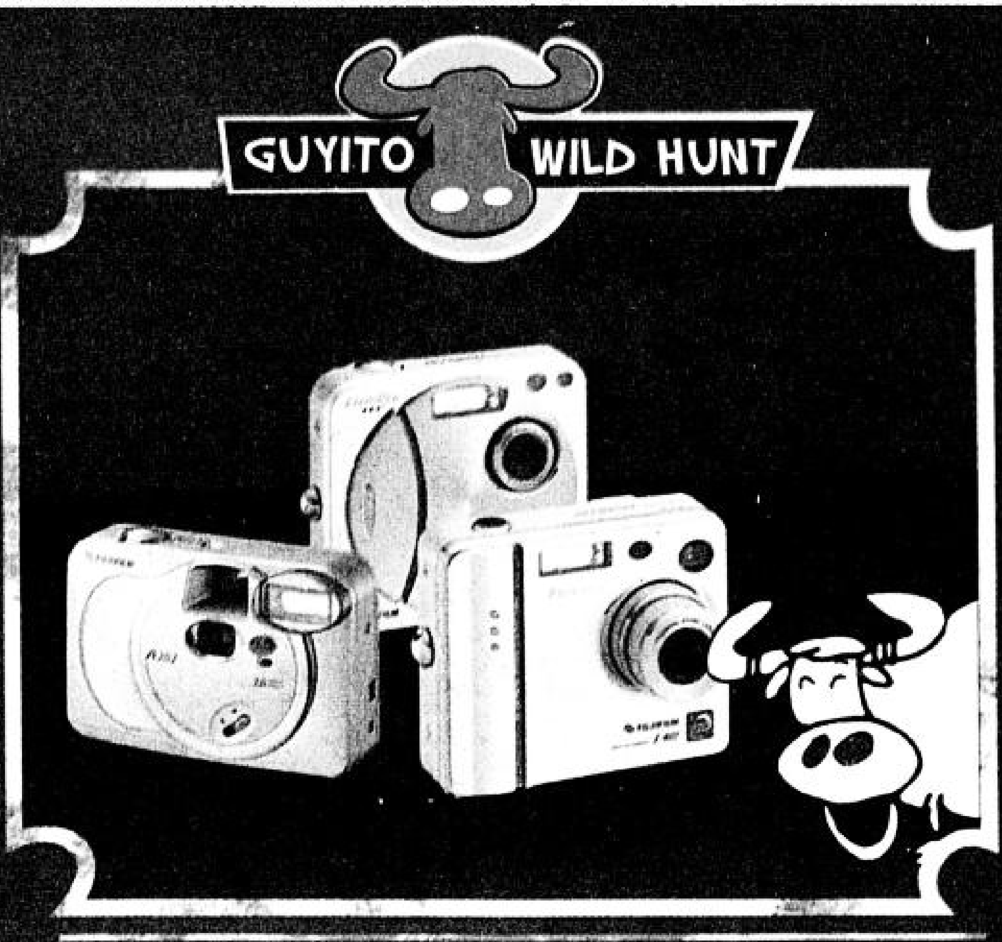
Text supavote <name> to 26588 (for example: supavote kok)

2) FAX: 325-1MTV
3) EMAIL: mtvsupahstar@mtv-asia.com
4) ONLINE: www.msn.pldtmypad.com

Our deepest condolences

THE SCENE mourns the passing of the big man behind BIG FISH Tuck Cheah aka TC. He elevated Manila Night Life to nominal heights by bringing in world class club acts and DJs. Thank you for the colorful memories, the endless nights and for never doubting how music can bring people together. We're sure the gates are wide open especially for you in God's Kitchen. We'll miss you TC.

From Super



REWARDS

The wild chase is on for Inquirer's Guyito!

Look for the specially-marked Guyito coupon in the pages of Inquirer. Cut out, put your name, address and signature. Drop at designated drop boxes for a shot at your most wanted rewards!

Join the fun as Inquirer celebrates 19 exciting years of giving Filipinos no less than balanced news and fearless views.

Hunt from September 27 to December 14, 2004!

See posters and print ads for more details.

Per DTI Permit No. 2147, Series of 2004.

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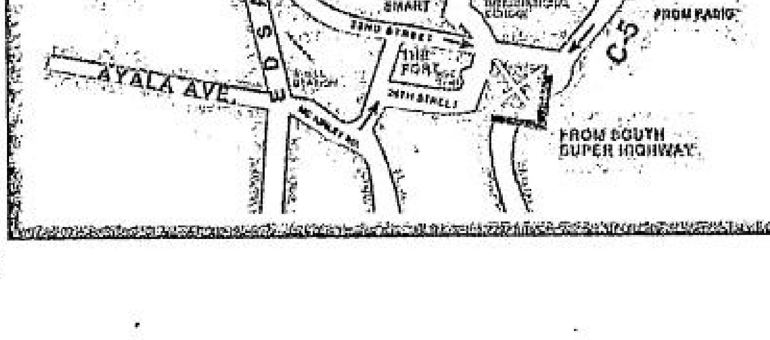
TECHIE AND TV HOST MANU SANDEJAS DISCOVERED A QUICK LINK TO THE WORLD'S LATEST ELECTRONICS.



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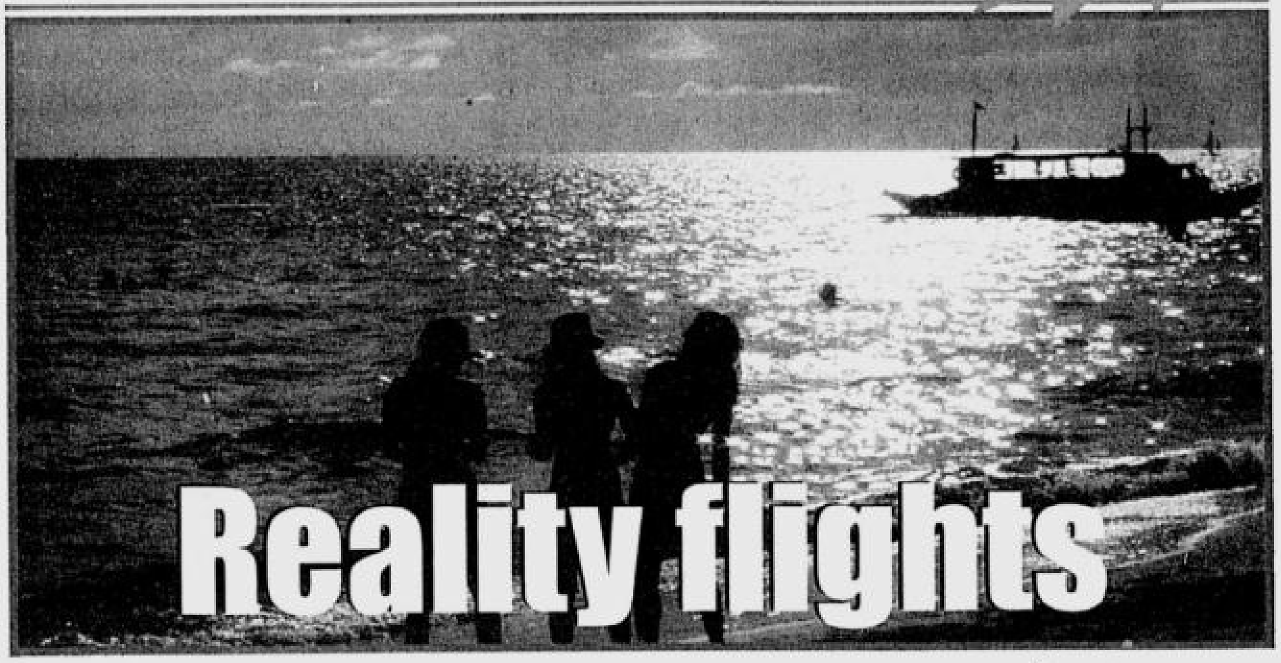
Per DTI-NCR permit No. 4974, Series of 2004.

SATURDAY Super



Reality flights

"Is there any love that is nobler, purer and more sublime than the love of the native country? What love is? Certainly none."
–Andres Bonifacio

"We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploration
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time."
–T.S. Eliot, "Four Quarters"

IT WAS an ungodly hour, kept astir by the dual courtship of Insomnia and Fatigue, when I was mind-kicked with a curveball question. I was among a fellowship of quarter-lifers; a ragtag bunch of surfers, financial analysts, college students, musicians and artists, all of whom had turned contemplative about life choices, true passions and the non-linear equations of love. Perhaps it was the strong tremor of the earthquake the night before that had jolted each friend to sudden self-examination. One of them had laid the million-peso question on the table: "What can we really do for our country?" Stripped of any minute to think hard, or even attempt to wax philosophical, I responded, "We should keep exploring it so we can really exclaim WOW Philippines! with conviction."

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

WOW now

The night's story had suddenly been written out in a stream-of-consciousness fashion by different authors. That one question had spurred impassioned discussions on a spectrum of topics that meant something to us all. What else does the acronym "WOW" stand for? Someone blurted out, "Why Oh Why?" in examination of the reality of the Filipino Diaspora—for many of our childhood peers had already gone West in the hopes of finding better education, higher-paying jobs and eventual self-sovereignty. We raged over the real Weapon of Ass Distraction dubbed as "Dubya," since we had woken up earlier than usual on a Saturday morning to watch the US presidential debate. Then we calmed our nerves with a recap of "The Amazing Race" scenes shot at El Nido during the popular show's season finale. Just talking about the sapphire colors of Palawan became the group's instant mood-upper. For if there is one thing

REALITY/ D3

HAVING a treesome in the Mt. Province

PARANG screensaver! Sand bar in Tubbataha, Sulu sea

SO WHAT COKE ARE YOU, REALLY?

Did you know that it's easy to tell someone's character by the things he or she likes? Take the quiz below and be surprised how much your taste tells a lot about who you are and, most of all, what Coke will best refresh you.

What would you wear on a big date?
A. A classy, all-black ensemble from top to toe
B. Whatever's loose and comfortable
C. Preppy silhouette that's dominantly neutrals
D. Body-hugging that will show your assets

Who are the artists on your CD rack?
A. Maroon 5, Alicia Keys
B. Hoobastank, Incubus
C. Dashboard Confessional
D. Ministry of Sound, Ibiza

What do you read?
A. Newspaper and novels
B. Independent titles
C. Comics and sci-fi
D. Magazines and self-help books

How do you like your steak?
A. Well-done
B. Rare
C. Medium-rare
D. I don't eat steak

What is your dream cell phone?
A. The less complicated, the better
B. Something that no one else has
C. With lots of games and software to operate
D. Streamlined, with lots of stylish covers

What's you dream car?
A. Anything that has four wheels and drive
B. SUV
C. Beetle
D. Porsche

How will you pose in your yearbook photo?
A. Something that mommy would hang on the wall
B. Wacky and crazy, with tongue sticking out
C. You really don't care
D. Glamorous, almost like a magazine photo shoot

Now, the fun part. Below is an assessment of your personality profile. Find out which one you are based on your answers above. As a bonus, we've also written down which Coca-Cola best describes and suits you. After all, there's nothing like grabbing a Coke that'll refresh you the way you want it to.

Mostly A's
You're a classic. Everyone finds it easy to talk to you, and you get along well with almost everybody. You find it easy to get new friends, even in the most unlikely places.

So to speak, you're like the Regular Coke. The one that everyone has always loved.

Mostly B's
You're on the wild side. You like to explore new places, and you love the outdoors. You find satisfaction in experimenting, and is happy knowing that there's always something different to do.

If you were a Coke, you'd be Cherry Coke. There's always a cherry wild side in you!

Mostly C's
You've got a lot going for you coz you've got it just right. You always see the fun side of things. Easy-going and humorous, surely no party will be the same without you.

You're definitely a Vanilla Coke–you have just the right touch of vanilla.

Mostly D's
You're ultra sophisticated. You always strive to improve yourself. You go to the gym, eat healthy food, because you know they're good for you. You're a New Age phenomenon!

Coke Light best suits you. It's the same Coke but with less than 1 calorie, it's good for you.

Regulahhh
No sugahhh
Cherry wildahhh
Vanillahhh
Vanilla Coke
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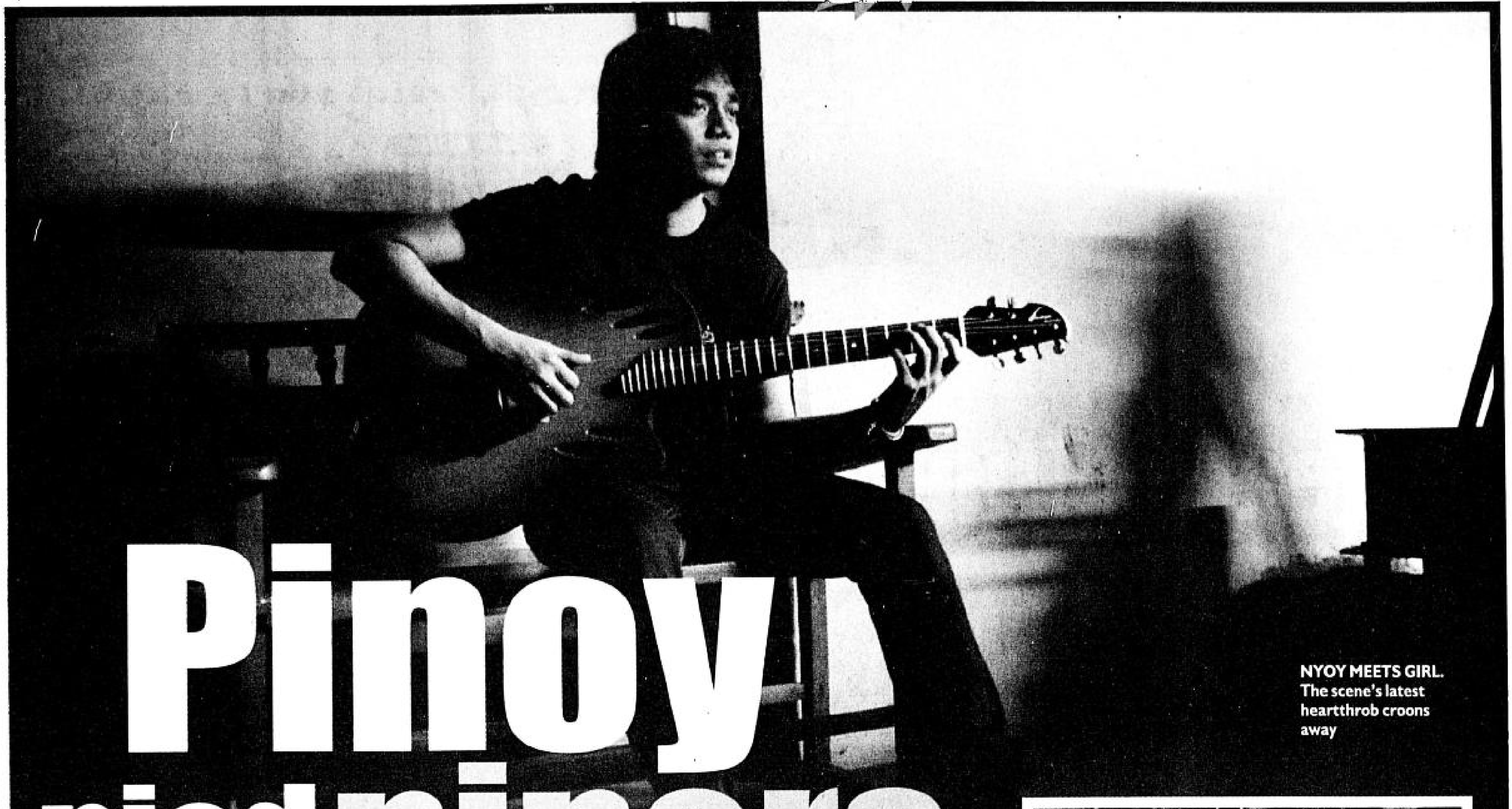
Pinoy pied pipers



NYOY MEETS GIRL. The scene's latest heartthrob croons away

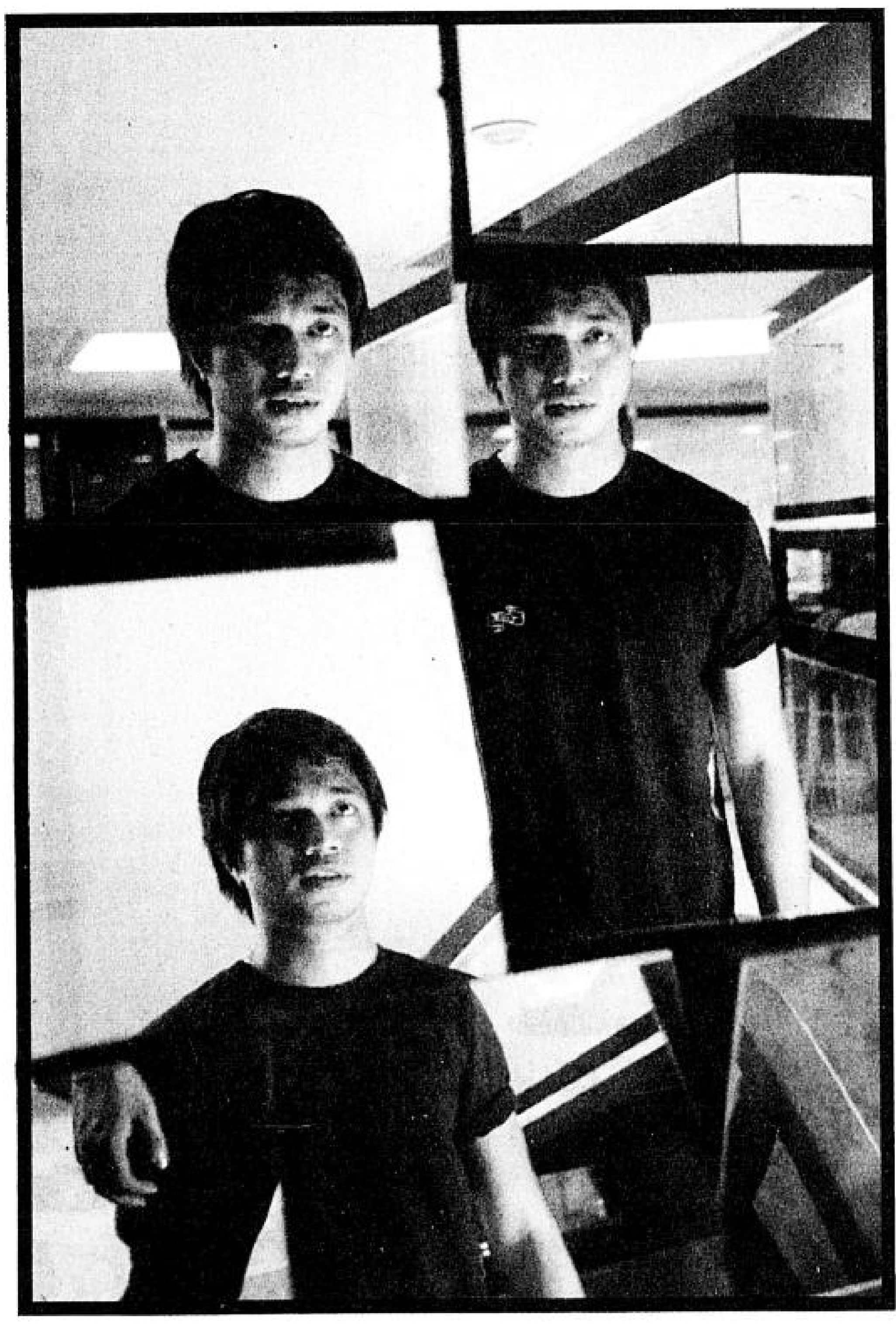
By Tim Yap
Photos by Steve Tirona
Interview by David Milan

PROMOTING popcoustic music to the masses, Nyoy Volante and Mannos have struck a chord with easy listening denizens of the metropolis.

With Nyoy as the lead singer, Coy Aranas as bassist, Glenn Dalit playing the *kahon*, Jerome Nunez playing the violin and Maynard Albis beating on the bongos, this breakthrough musical group rocked the scene with their unassuming yet distinct sound.

Yes, they do covers (my favorite is Nyoy's interpretation of Angela Bofill's "You Should Know by Now"—their album was nominated for an Awit Award) but they add that unique Mannos touch that makes the song soar to even greater heights.

Super! spent one night with the group while they were recording their latest album (with covers of songs like Binibini and Beep, Beep, beep! to be released this November) and realized the magic that their music inspires stems from a true passion for performing—like true Pinoy pied pipers.



MANNOS IN THE MIRROR. The many sides of Nyoy Volante

STRUMMING his joy and happiness with his fingers

The thing about fame is that: it's not what it always seemed to be.

The thing I love most about what I do is: being able to express who and what I truly am.

People might be surprised to know that: I am a homebody.

The most important thing I've ever learned is that: you can never know yourself well enough to predict what you are or not capable of.

I wish when I started off I've been told to: just be myself.

The worst thing that ever happened to me was that: I grew out of my childhood (I'm actually trying to find my way back).

And what taught this to me was: when I started to neglect the simple things in life.

The secret to happiness is: to know you've been able to love unconditionally and still capable of giving the same amount of love any place, anytime.

My best ever outfit consisted of a: jacket, shattered jeans and worn out chucks.

My Super! Saturday night consists of: burgers, a couple of DVD's and my family.

The soundtrack to my life would include: the Christmas song

If I was invisible for a day, I would: eavesdrop on my friends and find out what they really say about me.

The thing that makes me most angry is: when I have a conversation with unbelievably unreasonable people.

If I was the most powerful person on earth: I would declare and impose peace among nations… or if I'm not that powerful: I'd own the biggest playground slash entertainment center slash kitchen slash bedroom on earth… or have the nicest video editing equipment you can imagine… or ask Coco Lee to marry me.

The best thing about family is that: they're there! no matter what! Till the end!

When I'm gone, they'll probably say: there goes a happy fella!

If money was no option: I WON'T MAKE IT AN OPTION!

When I retire, I would like: a nice couch with cup holders.

The world would be a much better place if: psylocke was a real person.

My hero is: my dad

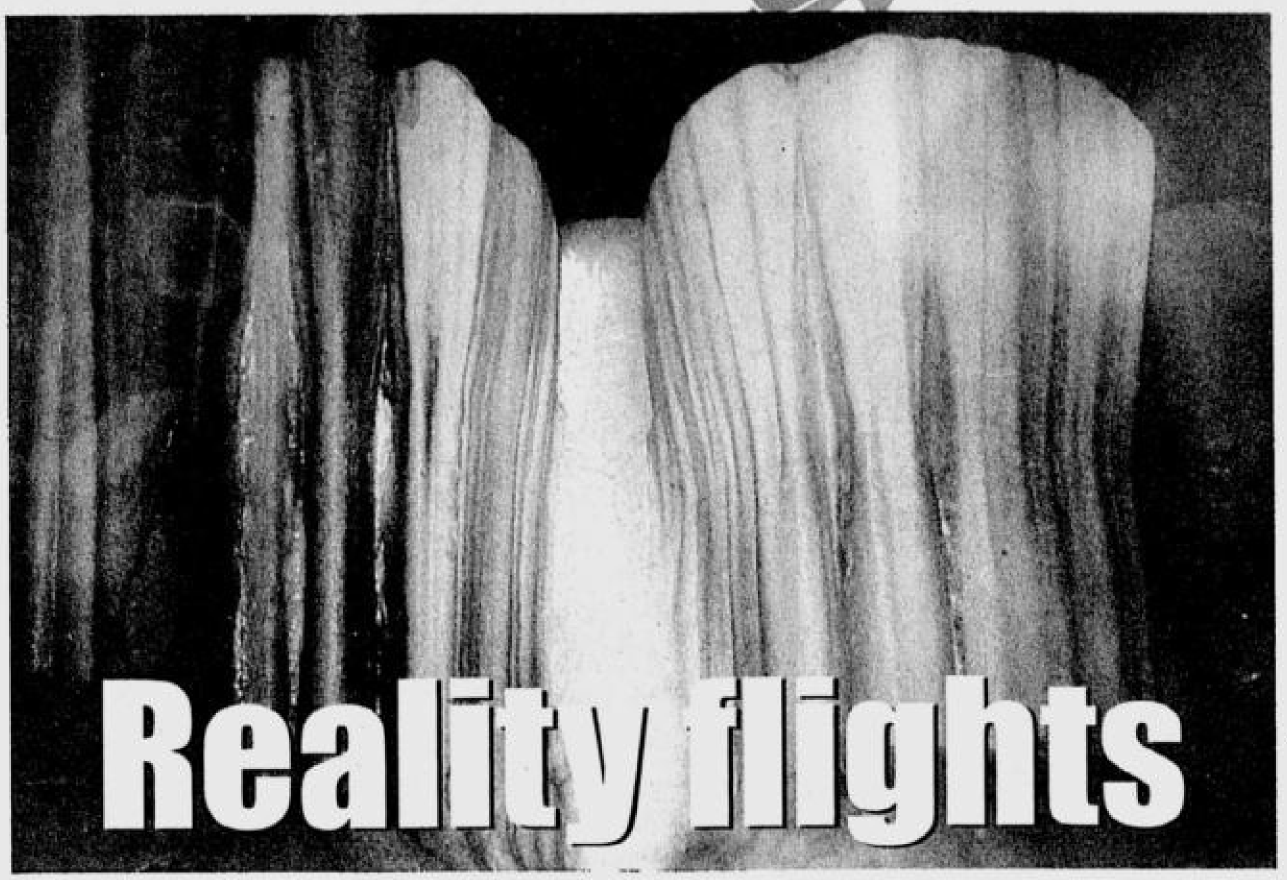
The thing that makes my life worth living is: that I know I'm never gonna have the same day twice, but can try topping the last one I liked.

My greatest hope for the future is: to one day wake up with the one I love in my arms

G SPOT. Coy Aranas on guitars

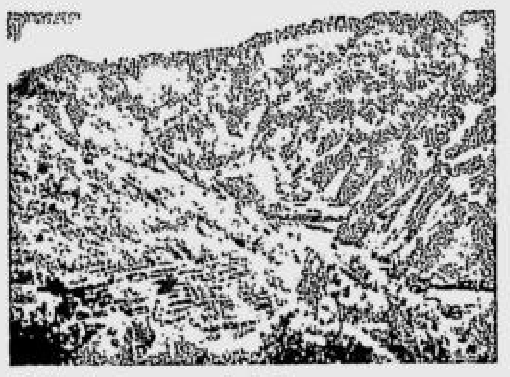
BONGO BEAT player Meynard Albis

OUT OF THE BOX. Glenn Dalit



Reality flights

STONED in Sagada: deep inside the caves



RICE, rice terraces, baby!

From page D1

that Super! glues our friendship, if there is one intersection for such a motley crew as ours all walking on different paths, it is a shared passion of traveling around the Philippines.

Our reasons for having such an unshakeable wanderlust for our own country are about as multitudinous as the islands in our archipelago itself. The surfing community, for one, is like a nomadic tribe in search of perfect waves all around the country. For them, WOW means "Wild Over Waves." The more corporate segment of our little group ventures out of the city to escape their stifling air-conditioned offices and reinvigorate themselves from the pollution of stressful work—thus, WOW cries out, "We're OverWorked!" The artists and musicians hitchhike, bus or boat it all over the map because it is during those sojourns that they become infused with the spirit of inspiration. They come to understanding in spite of the differences in dialects spoken by the people they meet, find meaning in the wordless, ethnic rhythms and tribal beats they hear, and depth in the simple lifestyles of the people along the way. That is their "Wisdom Of Wandering." As for me, born under the sign of Aquarius and forever locked within a torrid love affair for the beach, my own WOW would simply be, "Wonder of Water."

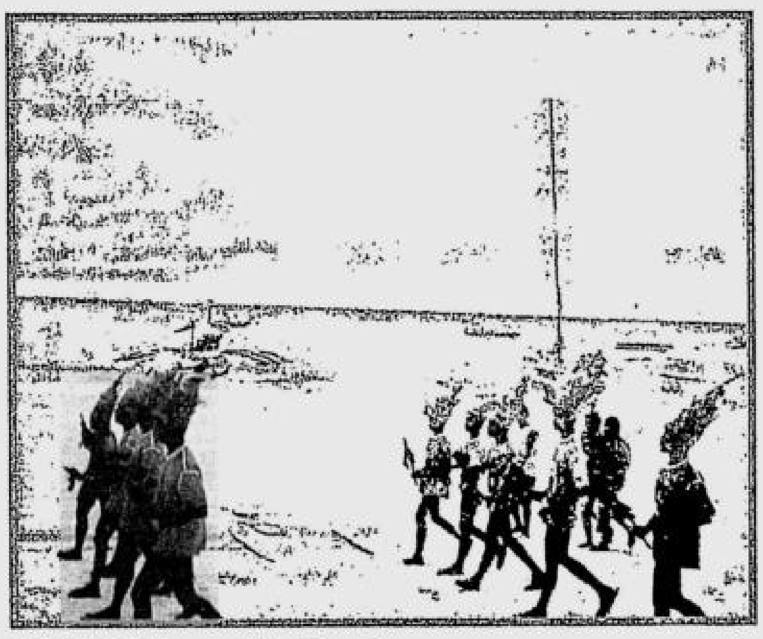
Far shores

The long and often cumbersome journeys out of Manila just to see the water don't even bother me anymore, for "nirvana" is in fact defined by Buddhists as "the far shore." As such, in the past years I've sought nirvana by journeying to the far shores of Lady LuzViMinda. From Aklan and Anilao, Baler to Bohol, Coron and Capiz, Daet and Dumaguete, Iloilo, L.U. to Sulu. My favorite destination, however, shall remain unnamed—let's just say it's a tiny little enchanting island which I don't want to reveal for personal reasons, such as how David Blaine would shudder to reveal the secrets behind his magic. One

little clue: Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder spent a month there in secret, at the height of the alternative music scene, and even refused revealing its name to an interviewer. Oh, and Jack Johnson's been there too.

True, one has to be a little '*koboy*' or have the ability to rough it in many of these places that don't offer five-star accommodations, but it is always the natural, unspoiled beauty that gives me the comfort of home.

I fully realize, though, that not everyone may be as lucky to have the resources and time to travel as much. These trips came into fruition out of real effort that I made, through work and sensible saving practices, because I've always believed these explorations are lifetime investments for a steady growth of pride of country. For me, traveling can be a worthy cause not only for the wayfarer but also for the ones he meets along the wayside.



SURVIVOR: Boracay Tribal Council

I am once again reminded of Che Guevara's Latin American journey. He was an upper middle-class Argentine studying medicine, who first made it out of Buenos Aires at 23 years old. His travel diary describes a long, arduous and beautiful journey, in spite of the constant asthma attacks, mosquito coups and lack of *dinero*. He met several people along the way—from truck drivers and pretty girls, to poverty-stricken families and Yagua Indians, each of whom had transformed him in different ways. It climaxed when he reached the San Pablo leper colony in Peru. The lepers were overwhelmed that Che shook their hands and hugged them without flinching in fear. Heck, he even played football with the lepers and always insisted on being on their side, and not with the opposing team of doctors. It was on this adventure where "I" had turned to "we" and instigated Che Guevara's inner revolution.

Five senses

Thus, if I could humbly submit my personal, simple solution to overcome the purported lack of a sense of country ailing us today, it would be, once again, to keep exploring in order to find our own place in it. I believe there is a need to make a true effort to venture out of the Discomfort Zone of endless cynicism and hopelessness for our homeland. Having a "sense" of country, after all, has different layers of meaning.

For one, to sense is to feel. To have a sentiment or emotion akin to how one cannot sleep at night thinking of a faraway lover. "Sense" is likewise about perception, an unexplainable instinct of certain, unseen forces that become a guidepost for one's future choices. To make "sense" also means to bear reason and intellect, to uphold logical thinking when discerning what of our words and actions are good or offensive to our country and kindred. To sense is to be struck with insight, which ultimately leads to a very real and solid understanding of ourselves and how we can, in our own way, be part of a conspiracy of real and positive change.

Again, to raise the million-peso question: What can we do for our country? I leave that for you all to explore, with common sense.

If you can correctly guess the mystery island I mentioned, I will personally send you a souvenir from there. Email me at inca_orange@yahoo.com

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First Dates & First Loves
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Queer Eye Jai Rodriguez
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P150

Get a load of these pink pages

MAHATMA Gandhi once said that one must be the change that one wishes to see in the world.

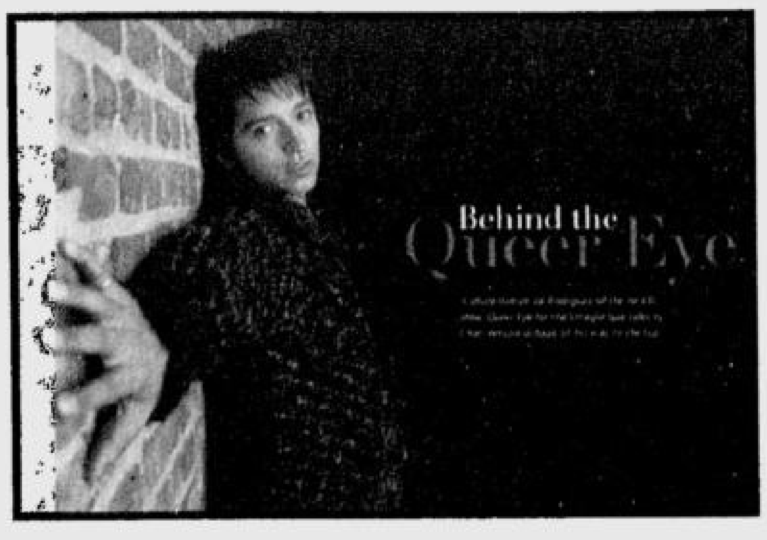
This month, a magazine that's sure to become that change hits the newsstands.

ICON, Metro Manila's first glossy lifestyle magazine for, about, and by the significant but often misunderstood and misrepresented "pink" community, will ignite change, challenge stubborn stereotypes, and open a whole new world to those who will be caught unaware. Published by ICONpress Publishing Corp., ICON is a quarterly that features and celebrates Diversity, Culture, and Life, as we have never seen them before-truly a magazine whose time has come.

The "First" issue of ICON is a tribute to the sheer rush that usually comes from knowing one dares to do what has never been done before. ICON "First" displays in full glossy color that heady feeling one gets before a first date. It features for the first time in a Filipino magazine a very popular actor from a very popular series that's been taking the community by storm—does "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" ring a bell? Within the pages of ICON "First" are a guide to sharing your first nest with a love; a no-nonsense handbook to hacking it at your first job while celebrating your individuality; and even first lessons on toys, boys, and having a choice as well as a voice. Although not for the weak of heart, ICON "First" offers a little something for anyone willing and gutsy enough to take the first bite.

Do not be caught unaware. Grab a copy of ICON, and take the first bite off this apple.

ICON is initially available in Metro Manila. For subscription details and information on where to buy ICON, please e-mail circulation@iconmag.com.ph.



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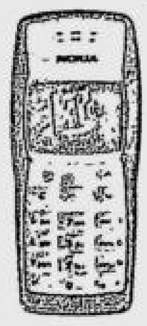

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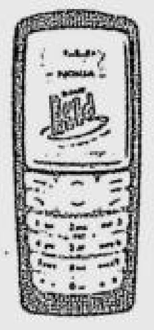

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Nokia 2300	FREE	P4,600
Nokia 2100	FREE	P4,900
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* FREE Nokia 3315 at Plans 300 and 600 from October 2 to 10, 2004. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5022, Series of 2004. FREE Phones are available under 24-month contract period.

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Promo extended until October 31, 2004!

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Write here, write now

MAC and me

Dude, ideas, computer. My life as a young newspaper columnist rolls off the tongue rather nicely

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

IN BETWEEN working on quadratic equations in middle school and Google becoming a transitive verb, I wanted so badly to become an artist. Not just any run-of-the-mill painter, mind you, but an ingenious nomad who showed his art in a futuristic Daft Punk clubbing situation. In short, I wanted to become a damn *artiste*. As expected, members of my mainly left-brained, hippie-free family didn't want their favorite firstborn to become anything except: a) a surgeon, b) an economist, or c) the proud owner of a 29-room mansion. "That's a poor man's job. It should only be your hobby," my aunt's theory went. So acknowledging the pragmatic wisdom of leery elders, I let the fantasy fade quietly in my head.

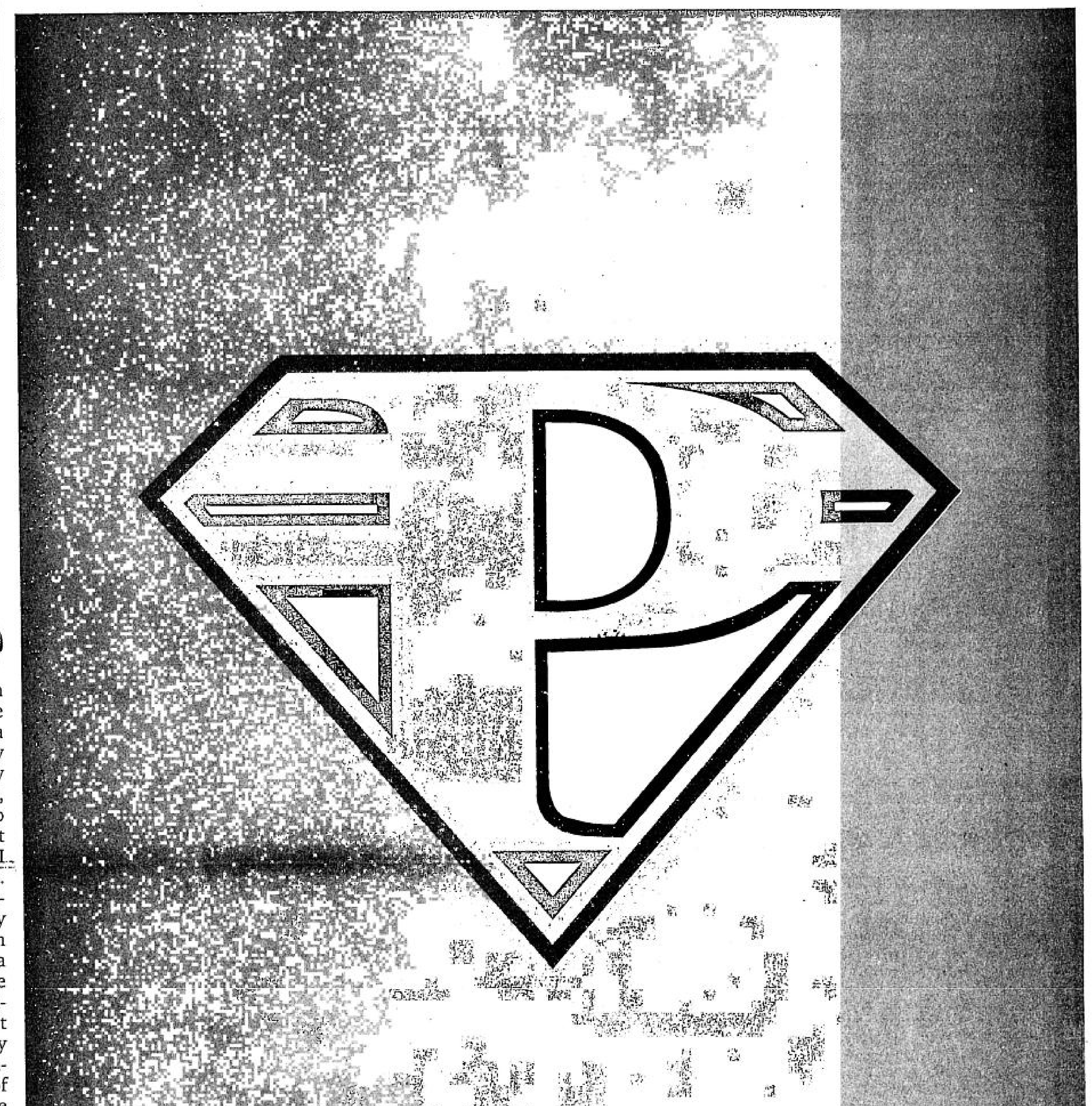
Now being aware of human nature's dog-eat-dogma, I stormed into university life determined to finish with something close to a management degree. Before long, I dove into freshman normality and everything it implied. (I hung out with a bunch of rowdy 18-year-olds who also thought that beer was really good food and professors were nothing but evil midterminators. It was 24/7 insanity.) Despite the freedom and the okay grades, I still felt rather empty and cheesy, much like a "National Lampoon" movie. (Not "Van Wilder," though. That rocked.) I really didn't know why I was masquerading as a business major when I knew I sucked at math. It was denial, I guess.

As I struggled to find my place in the sphere of higher learning, I switched majors to the very popular "No Clue Whatsoever" and signed up for classes no one else touched: Alternative Cinema, Japanese Architecture, and Bio-Terrorism Preparedness. You know, the weird stuff. At first, I thought those classes would awaken my inner Damien Hirst, but I was only half-right. What really resuscitated my kiddie pipe dreams were the creative writing classes I took together with hog wild forward-thinkers. At that point, college became a bona fide blast. There was definitely no turning back.

The world and words

Graduating with an oddball yet sensible mix of art, literature, Spanish, and—just to be safe—marketing units, I then sailed out to participate in a bigger multimedia experiment: seeing the world. With a suitcase full of hope and designer trainers, I first landed in Latin America and breathed in as much of the

WRITE HERE/ E2



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Write here, write now

From page E1

risk-taking, dreamcatching spirit the region was known for. Following pitstops in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Greater Asia, I returned to North America once again to live among the celebrated "all walks of life" population. But somehow, life as I knew it had changed. It seemed that I acquired a better appreciation for solitude along the way. New York-based artist/woman-about-town Anh Duong says, "A lot of people are afraid of being alone, but being an artist is all about introspection."

See, I didn't just come home with a few more stamps in my mangled passport. I also returned with insights, pictures, and words that occupied two fat journals, an idea I hijacked from Sebastian Valmont in "Cruel Intentions." My evolution into a word collector/idea translator wasn't exactly what I had in mind as a 12-year-old. Still, my artistic inclinations came back slightly stronger than ever. Instead of manifesting themselves as sculptures, collages and whatnot, my ideas now paraphrased into clauses, sentences, and essays. Pretty soon, I was writing up a storm. Needless to say, I found myself doing the same for the leading broadsheet in the Philippines—this one.

Dude, ideas, computer

I was back in Manila attending a party when an interesting person named Tim Yap asked if I wanted to become a Super! columnist. Being out of the local loop then, I didn't know anything about Super! I thought he was using synonyms for "awesome" to describe the kind of writer I could become. *Ha.* Little did I know that I would be here now, 15 months after, throwing down my thoughts on writing.

Dude, ideas, computer. I never thought I'd ever sum up my life as a young newspaper columnist in those three words. For now at least, they roll off the tongue rather nicely. And why shouldn't they? First of all, I'm living out a wet dream. Not everyone gets to put his or her great but inherently dirty mind to good use, so I'm mad grateful for the chance to be honest with myself on a national level. Next, writing is perfect for brooding, visual control freaks like me. I'm real fussy about linguistic minutiae-something I learned from Peanuts comic strips-and carefully piecing words is right up my alley. Last, each column article I complete is a feat in itself. Getting published and sharing the raw charm of something self-made with the general public is a welcome bonus.

Nonetheless, it would also be unfair to say that articulating what it means to be a slightly thinking guy in today's world is merely a walk in the park. Nope. First of all, there's this romantic notion of the isolated writer. That's crap. I may have previously underscored the joys of flying solo, but that was to thread your ideas together, not to gather them. In the real world, everyone—even writers—depends on other people for some sort of creative stimulus. The hunt for inspiration can sometimes be stressful, but overcoming this—the enemy called writer's block—is always worth it. Second, starting an essay is hard; knowing when to stop is even harder. Writers are often guilty of falling deeply in love with their words that hitting the backspace button becomes a life-or-death ordeal. In that case, take a page from Hamlet's Polonius, or mid-90s rockers Elastica, who said that brevity is the soul of wit. Finally, owning such prime real estate in a newspaper entails journalistic responsibility. Haters aside, columnists are pressured to continuously pursue the new, the now, and the next and write about them with equal parts style and wisdom. Sadly, not everyone fulfills the job description. For the record, I've never seen myself as a male Carrie Bradshaw (Gary Bradshaw?) since I'd like to think my essays are more substantial than her's, which always seem to begin with "In a city where..." and end without conveying a clear point. And I'm not old. But I digress.

Preaching is easy, life is hard

As if that weren't enough, emerging and published writers alike also have to endure other interventions. Parents often advise their kids to pick careers that would ensure their future financial stability, saying that a youthful diversion—such as writing and other forms of art—should be outgrown by the time one hits college. On the one hand, they could be right. Who wouldn't want their child's prospective salary to rival a Balkan nation's GNP? On the other, such statements could be totally confusing. You cannot tell a child to pursue his artistic instincts for the first 18 to 20 years of his life then say: "Just kidding. Time to go to med school!" Unless, of course, you want your offspring to think he or she was being Punk'd. That's so not funny.

And going back to another common parental obsession: Is writing when you're a grown person actually a "profession"? My answer? It's not. Rather than a profession, I think of it more as a passion, one that goes beyond bank accounts and old-school economics. Call me a fool, but I've observed that the ones who are happy with themselves and succeed in their respective creative fields belong to a pool of people who stuck to their teenage daydreams, got in early and refused to quit, despite all the challenges and expectations of society. So if you want to be an artist, a writer, a professional blogger—whatever—take my advice and just go. From my own experience, you'll never discover and fulfill your true potential if you don't even try.

Make Dove, not war

DONA Tumacder, Freedom Dancer

SHERYL Genuino, Savvy Businesswoman

KATE Torralba, *Passionista* for Fashion

ANI Almario, Reading the fine print

IMEE Martinez, Chemical Sister

ERIKA Marquez, Ballet Princess

TALS Diaz, Super!'s very own madventure columnist

ANNA Aguilar, High on Technology

By Giselle Segovia

TAKE it from these 10 women who are constantly and courageously battling for their place in the world. These achievers, whose identities were all revealed in Dove's Search for the Bukod Tanging Filipina 2004 are all shining beacons in their own right.

Finding just the right dames to personify a class above the rest was a task that Dove gladly took on to celebrate womankind's triumphs. A comprehensive search was undertaken to select outstanding females making a difference in their specified professions. By following their passions, they were given the chance to even donate prize money to their chosen charitable institution.

It's flyin' high time for these ladies to be recognized for making their etchings in each of their own fields: Sheryl Genuino (Business and entrepreneurship); Anna Margarita Aguilar, Marie Grace Faylona and Imee Martinez (Science and Technology); Michelline Duran-Pido, Dona Leiza Tumacder and Erika Marquez (Music and Dance); Kate Torralba (Visual Arts); Ani Rosa Almario and our very own Super! columnist Tals Diaz (Literature). Finally, someone takes notice and Dove gives honor where honor's due.

Wanted: VIPs

WE know you must think that we here at Super! are too preoccupied with ourselves to think about others, and you're right. Some of the time. The truth is we have hearts of gold but we just shy away from being ostentatious about it for fear of even more fan mail.

But following the success of Super!'s Celebrity Charity Bazaar—it seems we're on it again. We just can't help ourselves.

The Philippine Daily INQUIRER and Hands On Manila present VIP Day 2004. It's your chance to be a VIP (Volunteer In Person) by making even just the tiniest difference to the lives of 100 streetchildren and orphans. All you have to do is show up at the doors of the venue and participate. By doing so, you would be on your way into becoming a real VIP, as in Very Important Person.

All are invited to join this day-long charitable soiree on October 24, 2004, Sunday at the NBC Tent. Activities start bright and early at 8 o'clock in the morning and to wake yourself up, you might want your first stop to be at the giant slide or the velcro wall. Release the wild child in you! However, the highlight of this affair is really the unique auction where people pledge volunteer hours instead of your good ol' dough. A few of the perks and prizes that await good samaritans are: an iPod, a cellphone, a trip for 2 to Boracay, a tour of the MTV Studio with Sarah Mejer, a work-out session with Andrea del Rosario, a karaoke session for 10 with Vina Morales, a private party for 50 at MyCinema, a party for 6 hosted by Tessa Prieto-Valdes and many more. The silent auction opens at 12 noon and the live auction at 4 p.m.

This day will also serve as the launch of Hands On Manila's Badminton Program for Streetchildren and as a prologue, Olympian Weena Lim volunteered to host a badminton clinic on that very same afternoon at 2 p.m.

We're happy to declare that we're not the only good souls around Manila. Other organizations involved are: Eon Inc. (the Corporate Communications Network), TBWA\Santiago, Mangada, Puno, Bench, kiddieparty.com, Themeworks, Mirant, First Gen, Asian Spirit, Boracay 357, True Value, Digital Exchange, The NBC Tent, Wave 89.1, Jam 88.3 and Joey 92.3.

Watch out for the auction mechanics which will be announced next week. For early registration or inquiries, you can ring up the Hands On Manila office at 843-7044 or 843-5231 or the INQUIRER's Marketing Office at 897-8808 loc. 259 or e-mail handsonmanila@edsamail.com.ph or hsoriaga@inquirer.com.ph.

Are you a VIP?

Giselle Segovia

Tennis Envy

From page E3

as frustrating, the specific reasons can be very vague. It could be body odor. It could be a deviously contorted scheme to drive you insane. Or perhaps your presence has become too much for him, your constant attention evolving from "comfortable" to "constraining." Assess your actions objectively. Do you try to contact him on a daily basis? Do you text him more than absolutely necessary? Do you follow him after work from an anonymous distance or go through his garbage cans in search of mementos? If you've answered affirmatively to any of the above, maybe it's time you took a step back and allow your friend some breathing space, or a ten-second head start.

Set

So why is this such a big deal for you, anyway? Sympathy would be more forthcoming if the situation demonstrated a level of gravity or involvement; for example, if you guys had been best friends for years or related. Granted, you acted as his mentor or older brother for a considerable duration, but dude, it's a guy! Which, I believe, brings another burning question into the horizon of our deliberations: Are you happy? Sorry. I meant, are you gay? If you are, then that's perfectly fine, and it would explain the girlfriend-dumping, male-friend-stalking actions. The obvious solution would be for you to come to terms with your sexuality first, and worry about your officemate second. After all, Martina Navratilova is a legend in tennis and she's happy. I mean, gay.

But homosexuality would be an oversimplification. People obsess over other people all the time, and it has little to do with sexual attraction. It could be that you covet an aspect of their lifestyle. It could be territorial, and you feel that your platonic property has been encroached upon. It could be that you are an intensely lonely person with separation anxiety stemming from forgotten childhood traumas buried in your subconscious. Or maybe, you *are* in love with him in the purest, most sacred incarnation of the concept—enamored of his dazzling personality, which shines like a beacon through the haze of muck and mediocrity, illuminating the finance industry all the way from Libis.

Match

The possibility exists that your relationship with him may never achieve the same levels of camaraderie as in the recent past, but if it is important to you, then you'll do what it takes to preserve any semblance of the relationship at all. Find out what exactly is bothering him. If he can't tell you himself then perhaps your mutual friends may act as mediators. Communication can result in a healing process or, at the least, a compromise—he'll spend time with you again if you promise not to hold his hand in public.

If that doesn't work, and this guy wants nothing to do with you, then change partners. There are a lot of lonely people out there who will play tennis with you! Or better yet, change sports. Try quiet, intense games like chess or alternative activities like ultimate Frisbee or badminton (too...many...puns!). If I have to clarify, these are analogies meant to illustrate the variety of options you have to fill up your free time rather then depress yourself over some friend who isn't acting like much of one anyway.

True friendship is sacred. Half the time, the challenge lies not in maintaining friendships, but in the identification of a genuine article from amongst the slew of caricatures. True friends will stick it out; the rest weren't worth the hassle to begin with. And if you can't find anyone willing to play tennis with you, well, rest assured that somewhere, out there, a brick wall is waiting to love you.

(E-mail bohemiansamurai@yahoo.com)

Tennis Envy

Man about town

Chuck Dy

Dear Man About Town,

Let me start my story by introducing my self: I'm a mid 20's male working as a financial analyst in a multinational company. I have this officemate that I have always treated like a younger brother. We used to do everything together, and he even introduced me to my current hobby, which is tennis. A while ago he was transferred to another branch (Libis) and for a long time we both worked at trying to get him transferred back. Now things have changed. He isn't the same person I used to know anymore. He hardly accompanies me anywhere anymore and it seems he is trying to distance himself from me. I know he contacts my other officemates now prior to myself unlike in the past. And I'm pretty sure he's playing tennis with them! I don't understand why I'm feeling this way, but I know I don't like it. My girlfriend and I have already split up because she claims I have no time for her (but in fact, I don't want to be with her anymore). Am I in love with my friend? How can I make this feeling go away?

THE PROBLEM with tennis, as I have so often pointed out to my other sports-minded peers, is that it is an activity that demands another player to be thoroughly enjoyable. Most sports require at least two participants to be considered competitive, but there are certain sports, which have no such population requirement to be at least recreational. Golf, swimming, running, rock-climbing and billiards are just a few examples of physical activities that are often pleasurable in their nature. Even team sports such as soccer and basketball can be reduced to their essences and can still be pleasurable as evidenced by the lone shooter on a basketball court on a solitary afternoon, or the single striker kicking around on a field by himself. Unless you consider competing against a brick wall a satisfying concept, tennis demands two people—like any relationship.

So here you are, all by your lonesome, having recently discovered that you're regular playing partner has defected to another court and is fondling the felt-covered balls of your other officemates. You consider this a betrayal of sorts, a valid suspicion given that both of you used to play in tandem so well in the past. If that wasn't bad enough, you've ejected your heterosexual romantic partner from the game because you've realized that her serve just isn't worth returning anymore. And to make matters worse, you suspect you may actually be in love with your male officemate. To summarize, my friend, you're all alone in an open-air tennis court, and it may about to start raining men. Whew! That's enough puns and sexual innuendos for this article! Kournikova? (Corny *ko, ba*?)

There are three issues being dealt with here: 1) Why is your friend being so unfriendly, 2) why is this affecting you so much, and 3) what can you do about it?

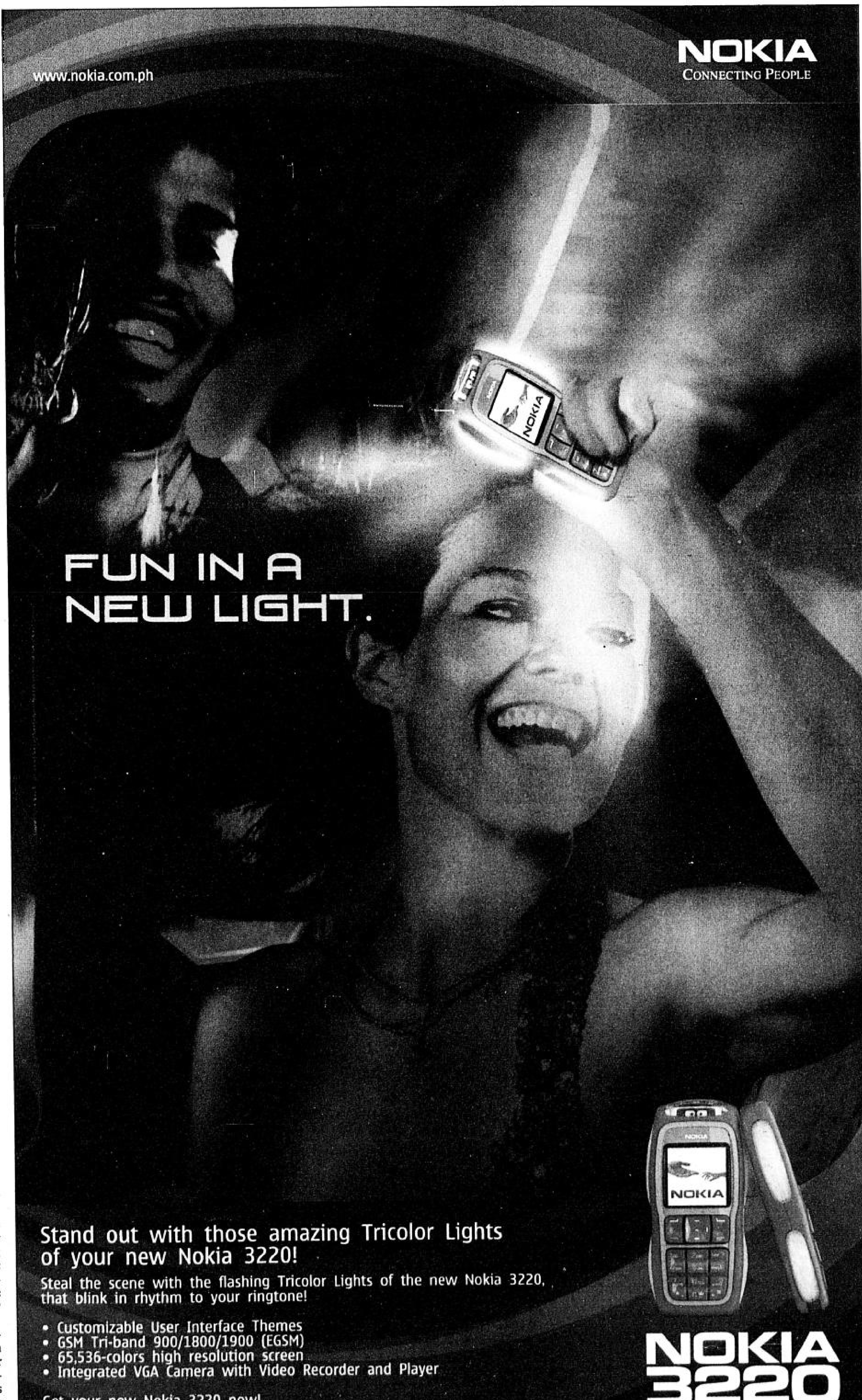
Game

Platonic male friendship is regarded as a relationship in its purest form. For Socrates, this kind of man-on-man love was close to sublime—but this could be a Greek thing, I don't know. Philosophical togas aside, it is hard to deny that the relationship enjoyed between male friends is something special. Drinking sessions, sports events, porn, sexist jokes, stock market bullshit, political prophesizing, vehicular property, fantastic mythologies spanning the heights of sexual conquest and the depths of inebriation—all these are both cause and effect of the phenomena known as "hanging with the boys." Not to suggest that the bond between women is any less extraordinary, but there remains an aspect of intelligence underlying the female symbiosis. Most men leave a bulk of their brains inside a jar of formaldehyde when they have a night out with the boys, reverting to a Neanderthalian logic and communicating through a series of grunts for the rest of the evening. Now that is special.

Unfortunately, the adamantine skeletons that join men together tend to be susceptible to dislocation and even breakage on occasion. Whether it be over a woman, business matters, religious or political differences or, in your case, other male friends, the sudden fracture can be quite painful and sometimes, permanent. And just

TENNIS ENVY/ E2

TENNIS the menace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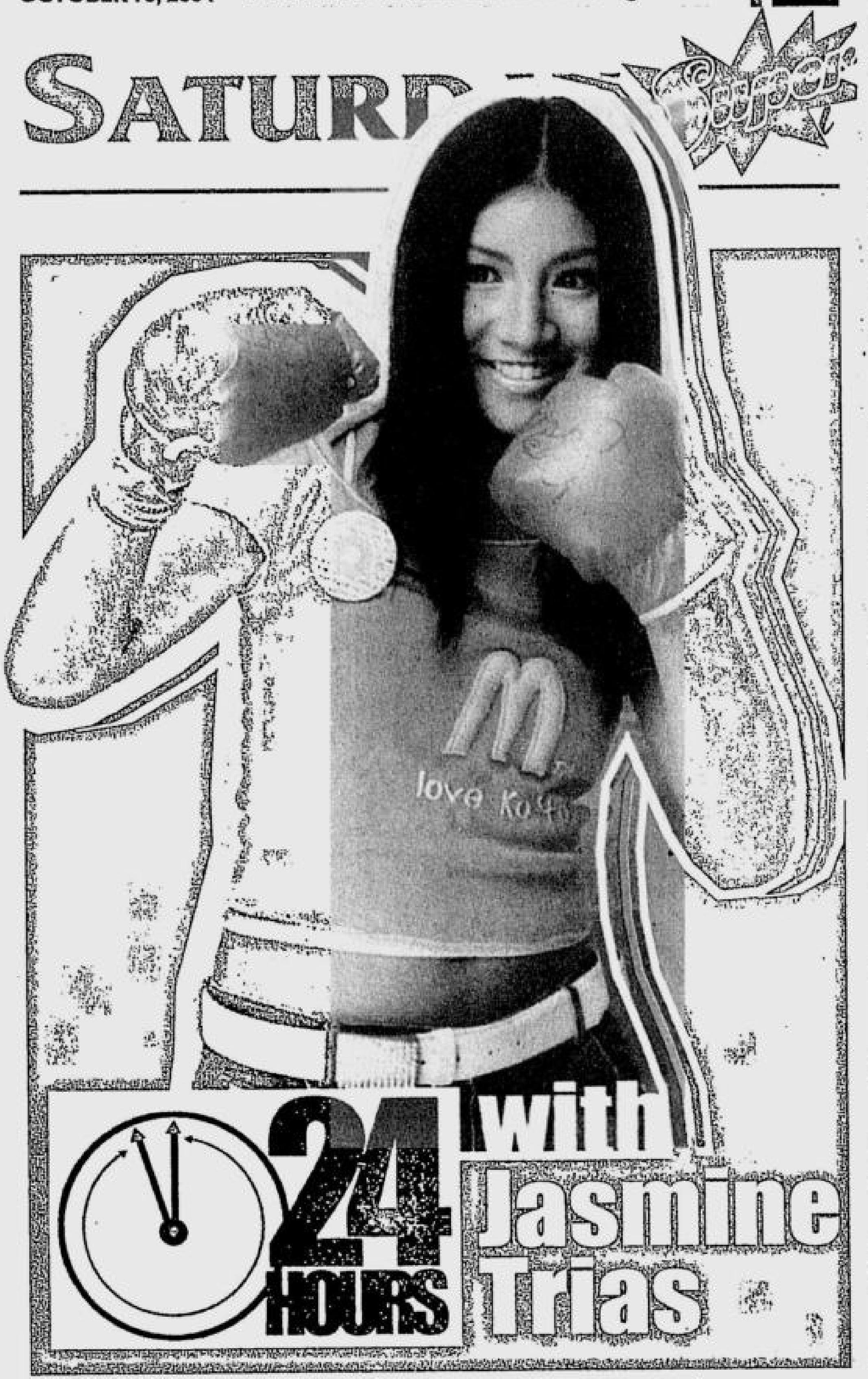

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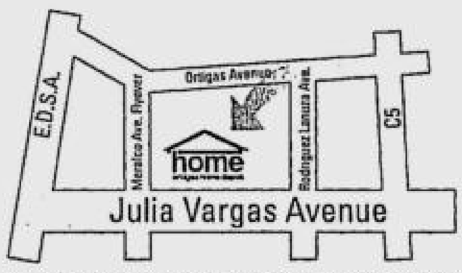

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LAY YOUR CARDS. Love ko Jasmine!

By Tim Yap
Photos by Rudy Esperas and Zonito Torrevillas

WITH HER transpacific charms, Jasmine Trias has mesmerized the whole nation. From the sun-drenched shores of Hawaii to the hills of Hollywood to the 7,107 islands of the Philippines, flower power owes its resurgence to the enchanting powers of Jasmine Trias.

Jasmania in Manila has started the minute she set foot on the "American Idol" stage, subject to the vitriol of Simon, Randy and Paula. Now pitching a whole slew of products from floral shirts to french fries, Jasmine is barely taking five from her first major concert to be staged tonight at the Araneta Coliseum.

Super! stalked Jasmine Trias from Singapore to Manila, followed her from Mc Donald's in South Super to her Bench autograph signing spree in SM Megamall like a deranged fan hit with some Jasmanic fever.

Here, she takes time out to sign our Super! guest book while munching on her Jasmine Trio.

The thing about fame is: it's not all glamorous as it seems, but it's all worth it.

The thing I love most about what I do is: that I get the opportunity to perform in front of thousands of people and it's a dream come true for me.

People might be surprised to know that: I need at least 10 hours of sleep a day

The most important thing I've ever learned is: that you need to stay true to yourself and be a strong person.

I wish when I started off I'd been told that: it would be a lot of hard work. So I learned a lot of patience along the way.

The worst thing that ever happened to me was: that I lost my shoe on stage during a concert. So I had on one shoe when I was performing.

And what taught this to me was: to strap your shoes on tighter.

The happiest moment of my life was: stepping on to the American Idol stage for the first time.

The secret to happiness is: knowing what you want in life, pursuing it, and then enjoying it.

My best ever outfit consisted of: a pinkish bronzy Karen Millen beaded top with olive green rouged capris with nude pink Karen Millen shoes and a chain belt with a flower in my ear.

My Super! Saturday night consists of: dancing and having a good time at a night club.

The soundtrack to my life would include: Love Ko 'To

If I was invisible for a day,' I would: Go shopping to a mall by myself. Privacy is such a luxury now!

The thing that makes me most angry is: No sleep

If I was the most powerful person on earth: I would make sure that there was no poverty and that everyone would be living happily ever after.

The best thing about family is: that they're always there for you no matter what happens and they'll always love you no matter what.

When I'm gone, they'll probably say: that I was a good person and that I love what I do.

If money was no option: I would still be doing what I'm doing: being a singer, a performer, an entertainer

When I retire, I would like: To live in a big house with my family in Hawaii.

The world would be a much better place if: there was no poverty and no war.

My hero is: Alicia Keys

The thing that makes my life worth living is:that I get to do what I love to do.

My greatest hope for the future is: that I want to have a long successful career and be the happiest that I've ever been.

MY BONG. Jasmine with Sen. Bong Revilla

SIGNING in our Super! guest book

MY TRIO. Royal float, french fries and 'Love Ko 'To' CD

LOVE KO HUNK. Here with Troy Montero

JASMANIA with Tim Yap and Juan Sarte III

DADDY COOL. Rudy Trias has his own set of fans, too!

SHOOTING the Jasmine Trio at McDonald's

CONCERT ROYALTY. Jasmine with Gary V and Martin Nievera

FANS day at Ultra

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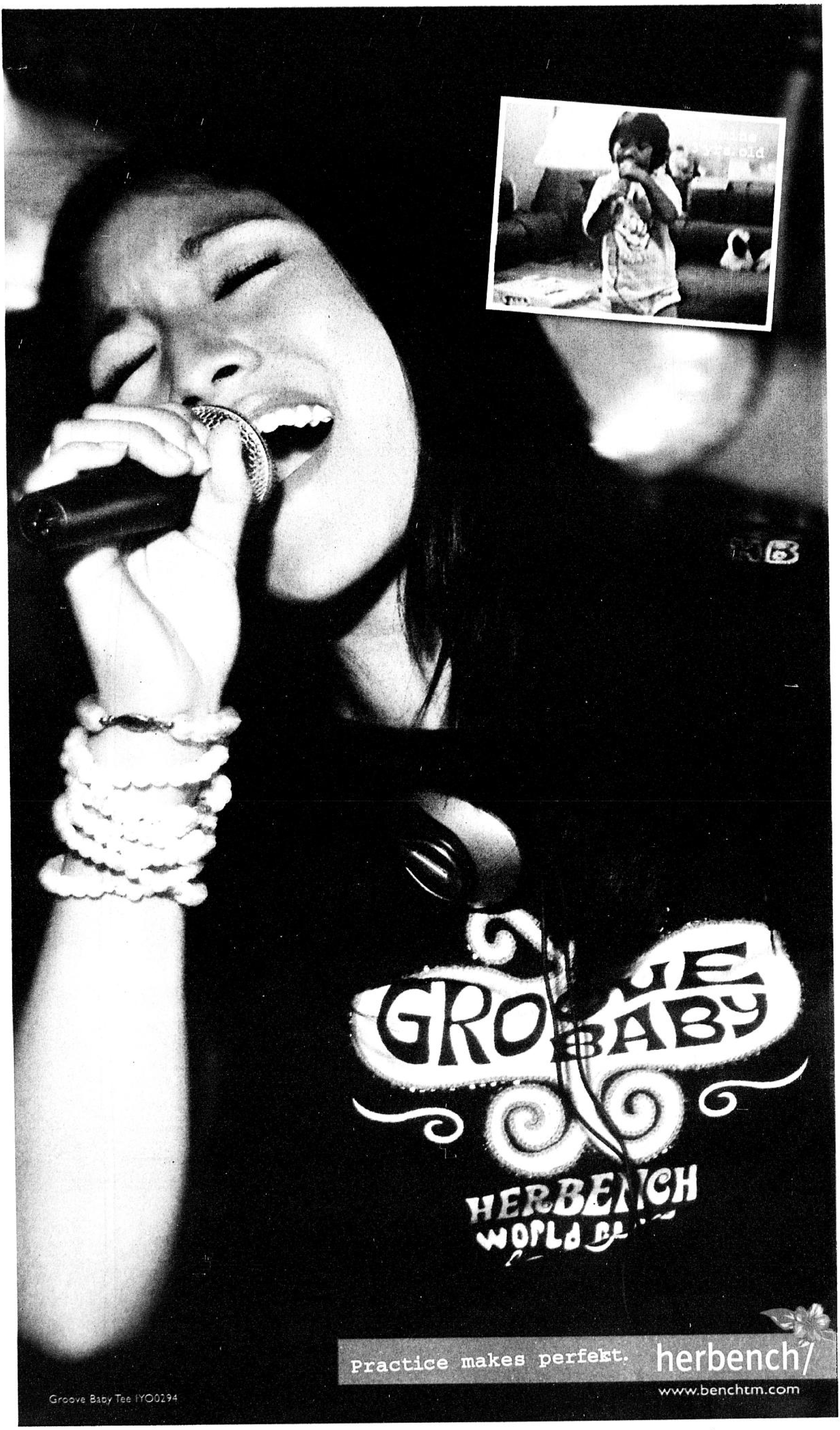
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*MMS content received = 20 raffle entries.
SMS = 5 raffle entries for initial opt-in.

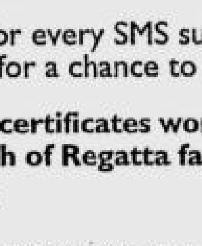
See flyers for details.
Promo duration: October 9 to November 30, 2004.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2369, Series of 2004.

Avail** of a new SMART Gold Plan, either SIM-only or Phone Package, within the promo period. Once approved, you will receive a FREE Regatta gift certificate.

Current SMART Gold subscribers will get a billing statement insert on this promotion. Present this insert at any Regatta outlet to receive a FREE T-shirt or pair of boxer shorts with your P1,500 minimum purchase.

**Minimum 2-year subscription requirement and pre-termination charges apply.

Promo duration: October 9 to November 30, 2004.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2393, Series of 2004.

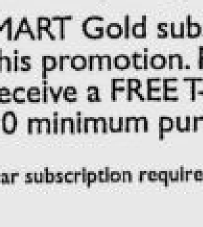


REGATTA FINDS:
There's nothing like a cheerful bag to brighten your weekend! Woven straw bag with polka dot print pockets and leather handle, P645, Regatta.

Text MMSFINDS ON to 234.

REGATTA TALK:
Q: My guy's shirt always becomes untucked from his pants. Sometimes, it looks unsightly. Is there anything I can ask him to do about it? A: Well,

Text MMSTALK ON to 234.



REGATTA TIPS:
If you've got a full-bottom figure, don't fret! The key is to bring the attention back up. Racer back tops are just the thing for highlighting and…

Text MMSTIPS ON to 234.

Text REGATTA to 234.***

***Subscription to receive weekly updates on fashion finds. P2.50/text.

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For questions, comments, or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111; *888 using your SMART cellone; the SMART Corporate Hotline at #888; send a text message to 888 (Standard rate in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation applies), e-mail us at smartgold@smart.com.ph, visit our website at www.smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

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SATURDAY Super

Blue, blue, blue

BLUE boys from the French Embassy

LUXASIA LADIES. Donna Faylona, Ann Wongchuking, Vicky Marchadesch, Christine Yam and April Marquez

AROMATIC, woody and above all, enveloping, L'Eau Bleue D'Issey features the suave effervescence of mandarin trees, the aromatic notes of rosemary and lemon grass, the rustle of star anise, and the hint of a drop of resin released by the exotic elemi bark…

Indigo blues and precious platinums were the theme of the recent launch of L'Eau Bleue D'Issey Pour Homme, the avant-garde Japanese designer lavish new scent for men.

More than just a new men's fragrance, it's an adventure into what Miyake terms "the land of emotion." Colored by the rich blues of royal sapphires, carried by the notes of a sensuous bass line, and the mirror-like serenity of deep, blue water, the scent is another landmark statement in the perfume world from one of the world's most innovative fashion icons.

Appropriate to the elegant architectural theme of the fragrance's bottle, Luxasia (exclusive Philippine distributor) unveiled L'Eau Bleue D'Issey in the classical showrooms of Libertystyle, itself a mecca for architects and designers alike.

On hand to experience the unique arrival of Manila's newest men's fragrance were a selection of the city's top architects, including Gil Coscolluela and Henry Manalang.

JENNI Epperson

LEONA Ilagan

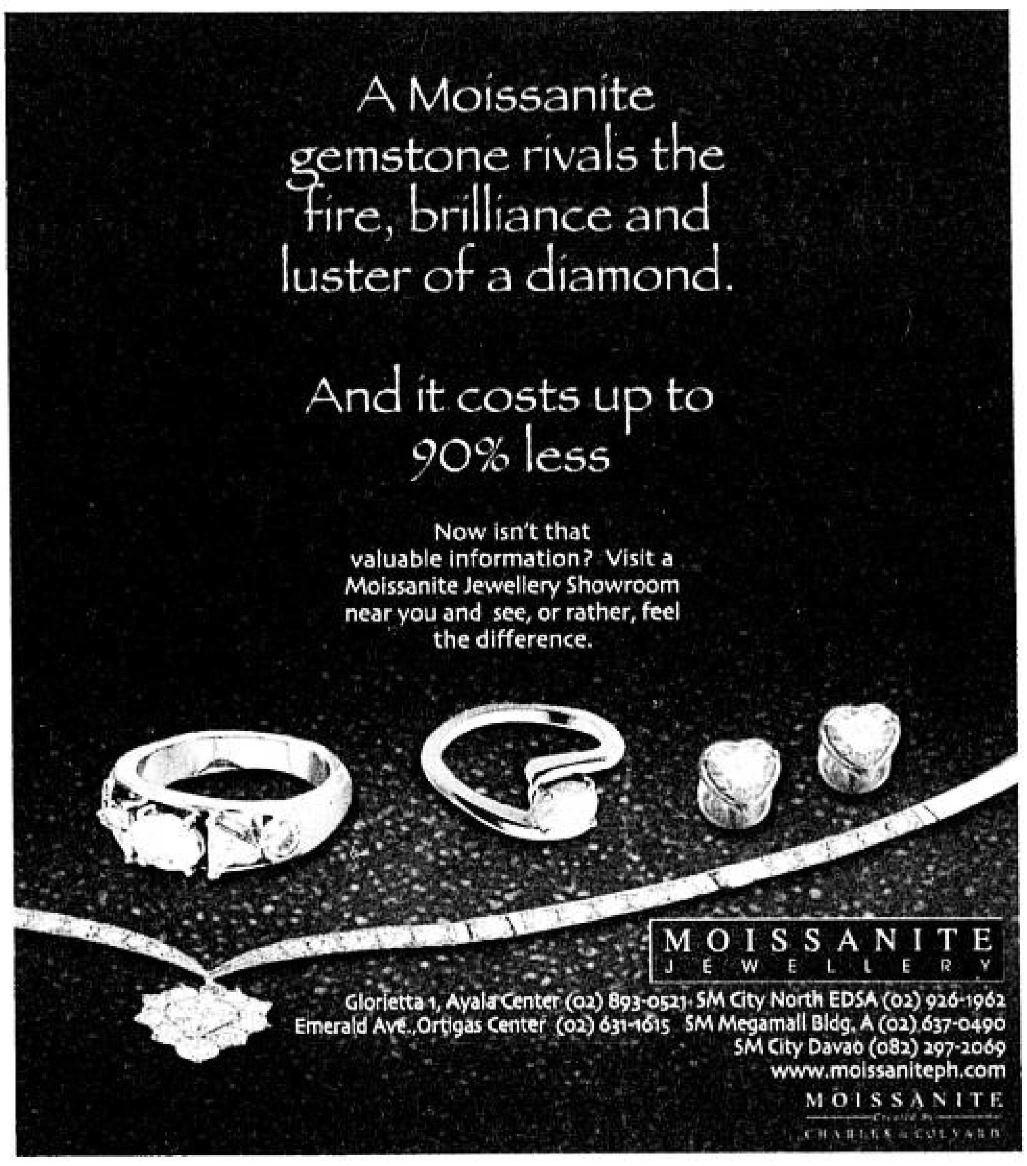
SARI Yap

MIA Nolasco-Cuenca and Chot Reyes

JR Isaac and Myrza Sison

TEDDY and Janine Dario

LORRAINE Belmonte



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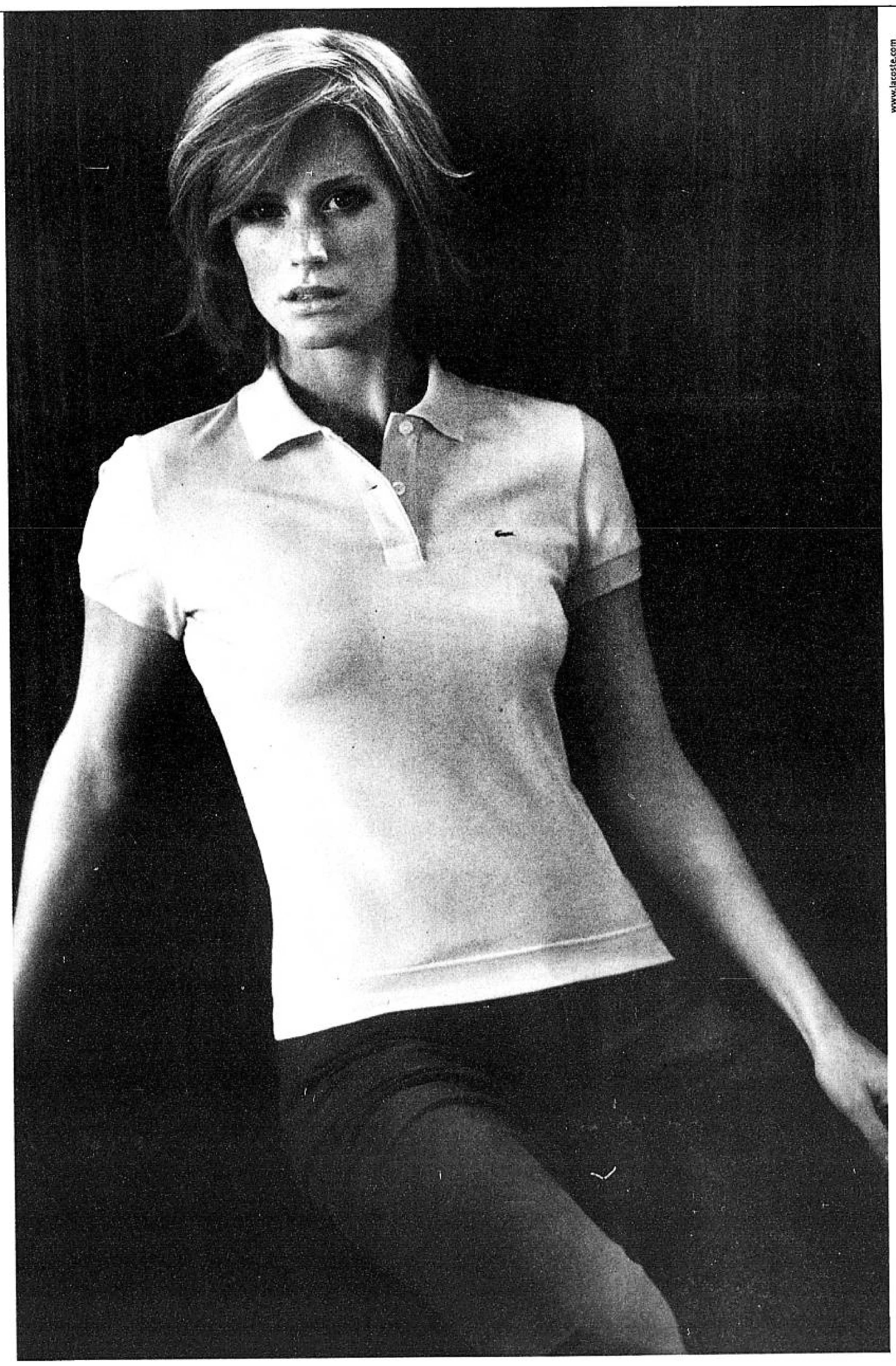

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SM MEGAMALL, BLDG. B · THE POWER PLANT (ROCKWELL CENTER) · THE STORE (GRAND BOULEVARD HOTEL) · SM BAGUIO · SM DAVAO

Do you feel the pressure since you are the winner and everyone's waiting for your album?
Fantasia: No pressure. Because if it gets to you, you have a lot going on, touring all day long, recording, photo shoot and so.... I always tell myself not to rush it at the same time, coz it will just some out as a rush album. I wanna take my time so that everything will be a-okay.

What was your most embarrassing moment in the show?
Diana De Garmo: I fell down the stairs in the middle of the show!
What have been the highlight of the tour so far?
DDG: Fans. Yeah, the fans have been amazing, for me everybody receives this inspiration and support. I think every city has been clearly great.
Do you feel the pressure since you are the runner up and everyone's waiting for your album?
DDG: It's hard to go into the album it's not just you put it out and expect people to buy it. You want to find a sound that fits you. We want to make sure that people can hear the artist in the music. So you can expect to hear some great albums from us.

Jasmine, what are your plans when you get to the Philippines?
Jasmine Trias: I have to make appearances for McDonald's, Bench and Smart, I have a big concert and a couple of TV shows. It's pretty amazing how I'm so big in another country and I've never been there before. So beyond my imagination. It's really pretty amazing for me.
How do you feel about people saying it was your smile that brought you this far into the competition?
JT: You know I think all of us learn that throughout the competition, it's not all about the talent, I think's its about becoming the person you are, and having the "it" factor, the whole package and talent is a big part of it but personality is another big part of it. I think that's what all of us do in the competition.
How did you deal with the talk about the media backlash about La Toya leaving the show?
JT: Well, it was a weird moment. Because I was happy that I made it to the top three but at the same time I was sad because La Toya left... It was a pretty weird moment for me but I talked to La Toya backstage before that night actually and I said I'm gonna go because I'm the one that deserves to go. And she said it could be me, but no matter who goes, I think all of us deserve to be wherever we are at. And no matter what position we are in American Idol it's a matter of how we pursue our goals after the show.

Idol worship in Singapore

Text and photos by Tim Yap

SUPER! sleuths snooped on the top seven finalists of the world-renowned "American Idol" competition as they completed their 50-city tour, with Singapore as their last pitstop.

Yup, this is the last time that the much-revered "Idols" will be together on the same stage. One by one, Jon Peter Lewis, George Huff, Jennifer Hudson, La Toya London, Jasmine Trias, Diana De Garmo and Fantasia Barrino proved to the Asian audience why they were all worship-worthy.

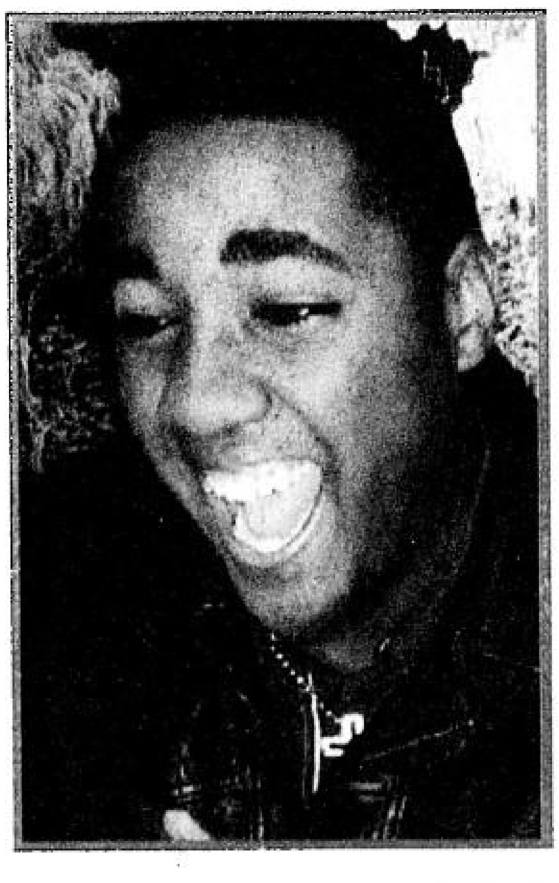
The Singapore Indoor Stadium was fully packed with fans eager to see the finalists who withstood all barriers and challenges—namely Simon, Randy and Paula—and came out victorious through the intense elimination rounds.

Top idol Fantasia was a livewire, giving a highly-charged electric performance. Her rendition of "I Believe" brought the house down. By the tail end of the show, she was dancing barefoot, jumping up and down the Singapore stadium stage.

Diana was a bundle of nerves as she lead the audience into a gospel medley. Yet it was clearly our very own Jasmine Trias who proved to be the crowd's favorite. The whole audience shrieked with joy when she started playing the piano while singing her rendition of Alicia Keys' hit "If I Ain't Got You." Jennifer Hudson and La Toya London each had their share of high notes.

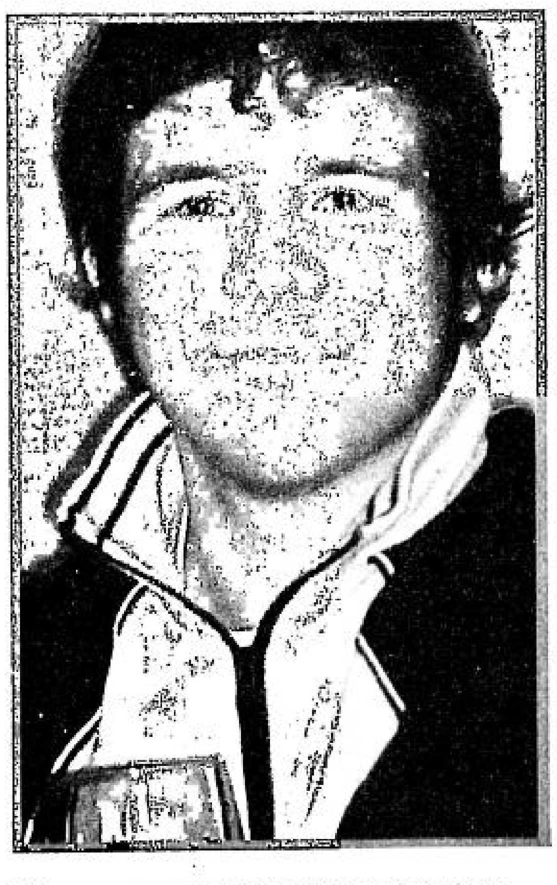
At the Hotel Inter Continental Singapore, we chatted up with these idols about their transformed lives, post-AI. Some are producing their albums, others are going into the movies. One thing is for sure, though, as Jasmine aptly said, they are all "moving on," and moving up to a higher ground.

What are you busy with, La Toya?
La Toya London: Well I'm starting with commercials and endorsements—I wanna put these lips to good use. I'll definitely come out with an album next year, too!
What kind of music?
LTL: Just good music, I don't really wanna put a genre, but definitely music that feels good.



This is your last concert. Can you believe that it's all over?
George Huff: Yes, in a way, because we have a lot of great things ahead of us and we're all very excited. Being here in Asia is great!
What can we expect from you when you leave the tour and what kind music would you produce?
GH: Well given that my Christmas ep (extended play) is coming out! I'm excited about that. I wanna act too, I wanna do it all. But hopefully it will happen.

Jenifer, tells us about your movie.
Jennifer Hudson: oh, I still can't believe I'm doing a movie. I just always think—oh gosh I'd love to be in a movie. And then all of a sudden I get a call for this movie and its called "Reborn." So I'm not just gonna be singing—you're also gonna see me there in the BIG SCREEN!



When you guys were told that you were coming to Singapore, did you know where it was?
John Peter Lewis: I still don't know where I am.
What will you miss after your tour?
JPL: We will not have our security guards We're gonna miss each other.
What can we expect from you when you leave the tour and what kind music would you produce?
JPL: I have been recording most of my days. I'm getting ready for the studio. What kind? It's kinda like quirky rock 'n' roll, it's indie rock so, there you go.

A Millionaire a Day!

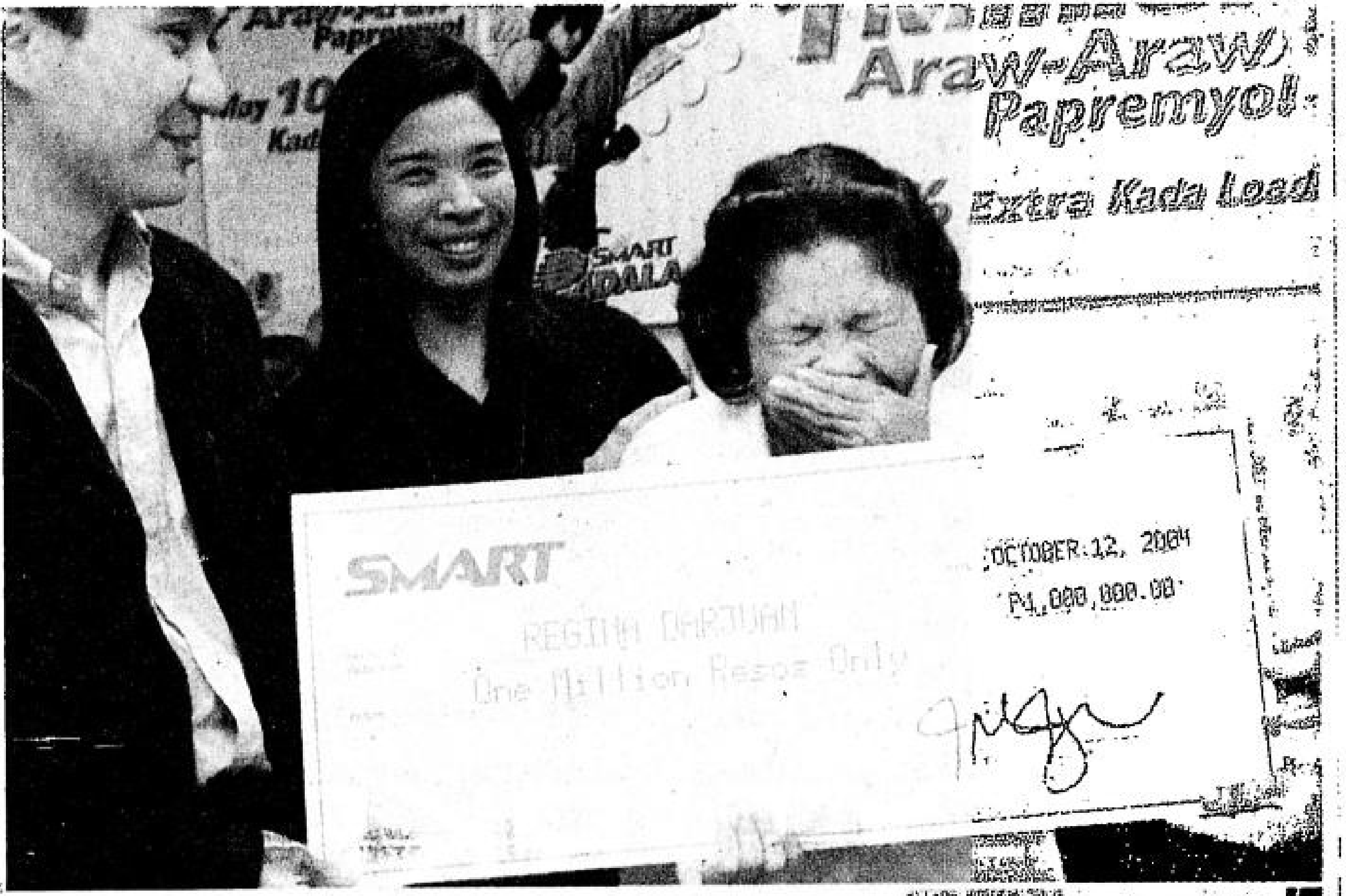
No Kidding!

SMART's First 1 Million Araw-Araw Papremyo Winner

Regina Darjuan was still shuddering with excitement and disbelief as she arrived at the SMART Tower in Makati to claim her 1 Million Pesos. The 50 year old homemaker had been all too skeptical when SMART called informing her of the prize.

"Sabi ko sa tumawag, 'Baka racket lang 'yan ai' Hinding hindi talaga ako naniwala!" ("I told the person calling me, 'This might be just a gimmick or ploy!' I really didn't believe it!") she now recalls this with a big smile, her eyes drifting back to the moment she received the call.

Her sister Arsenia Valencia had more immediate concerns. "Mahina ang puso n'yan naku ilang araw na siyang hindi nakatulog," ("She has a weak heart, oh and she hasn't slept for days.") she said, prompting some in the SMART office to attend to Regina, hoping she wouldn't stress herself too much over the excitement.



But she was already in obviously high spirits as she received the check flanked by SMART officers.. The people at SMART in turn clearly showed their own happiness that someone so genuinely nice won the first Million Pesos being given away by SMART's 1 Million Araw-Araw Papremyo for the entire month ending October 24, 2004. The promo is open to all SMART and Talk N' Text subscribers who e-load their cell phones at participating retailers.

"Naku, marami rin sa amin na hindi naniwala sa unang pag-notify sa kapatid ko," Arsenia tells us, "Kaya nung nalaman na rin namin na totoo ngang nanalo siya, ang daming nag SIM-Swap na rin sa SMART at ang pag e-load na lumalakas na ay lumakas pa rin lalo." ("Oh, so many of us in the neighborhood didn't believe it as well when they first notified my sister. That's why when we found out that it was indeed true that she won, so many of us SIM-Swapped to SMART and the already increasing number of e-loads grew even more.")

A Day In The Life

Regina Darjuan, a widow and former OFW, e-loaded her SMART cell phone last September 24, 2004. She does this regularly to be able to keep in touch with her two daughters Frederica, 25, and Erlinda, 21 who themselves work in distant Saudi Arabia as nursing aides. After registering for the promo, it was just a matter of days before she got the life-changing call.

In a typical day Regina attends to her home and the needs of her children in Navotas. The streets are bustling with humanity: the clamor of tricycles and zipping pedicabs as people mostly make their way on foot through the full streets. It is a growing community, teeming with young children and their parents, mostly with a constant hope for a better future. At least for one person, Regina, that hope has been realized.

When asked what she plans to do with the money, Regina is again gripped with joy, almost to the point of tears. "Matagal na pangarap kong magkabahay. Siguro lote muna ang kukunin ko pagkatapos maliit na bahay." ("I've had a longtime dream of owning our own home. Maybe I'll get a parcel of land first and then a small house on it.") she reflects.

Back at home neighbors are joking her "Balato!" (asking for goodwill tips). She hides her face in happy embarrassment. "Sabi sa akin ng mga anak ko sa Saudi nong nalaman nila nanalo ako, 'Nay uwi nalang kami'. Ang sabi ko naman tapusin muna nila ang contrata nila." ("My daughters in Saudi told me, 'Mom, we'll go home already'. I told them they should finish their contracts first"), she tells us, ever the conscientious and humble mother she is.

As the sun sets on this Manila bayside community, it's clear she'll keep her lines of love open with her daughters, more so after today. "Salamat talaga sa SMART!" her happiness shines through as she settles at home for the night, a markedly different evening than ever before.

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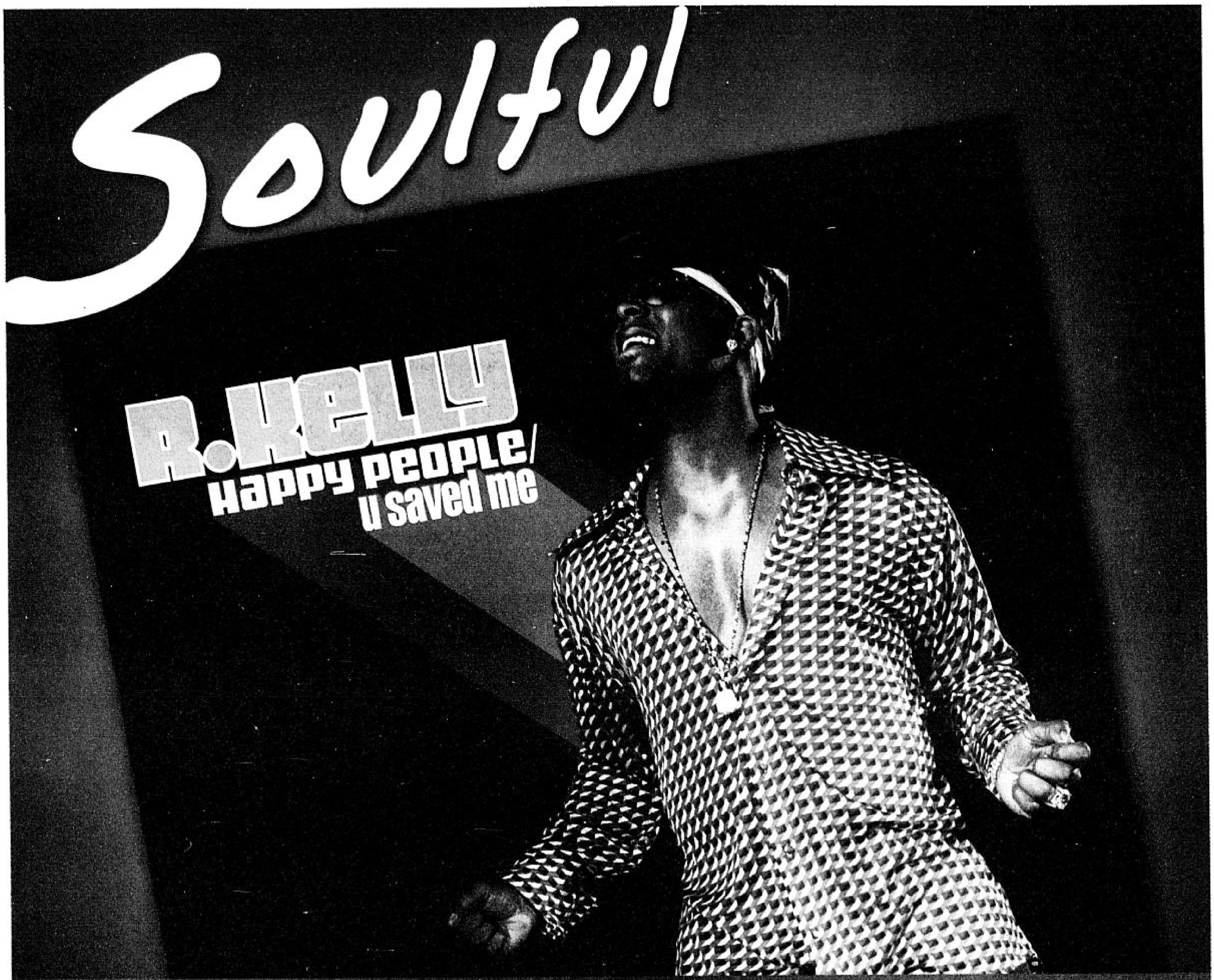

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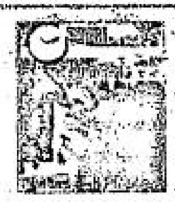
RKR2	U SAVED ME	RKELLY	RKR0	MOVE YA BODY	NINA SKY
RKR3	WEATHERMAN	RKELLY	RKR9	CONFESSIONS PART2	USHER
RKR4	STEP IN THE NAME OF LOVE	RKELLY	RKR10	MY BOO	USHER FEAT. ALICIA KEYS
RKR5	IGNITION REMIX	RKELLY	RKR11	LEAVE (GET OUT)	JOJO
RKR6	THOIA THOING	RKELLY	RKR12	TURN ME ON	KEVIN LYTTLE

THEMES [illegible]



R. Kelly Theme I

Phone Model:	Keyword:
Nokia 6600	RKT1
Sony Ericsson T610	RKT3
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R. Kelly Theme II

Phone Model:	Keyword:
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3. Go to the Handset Themes
4. Select RKELLY and Phone Model
5. Select Theme to download

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RKP1 RKP2 RKP3 RKP4
RKP5 RKP6 RKP7

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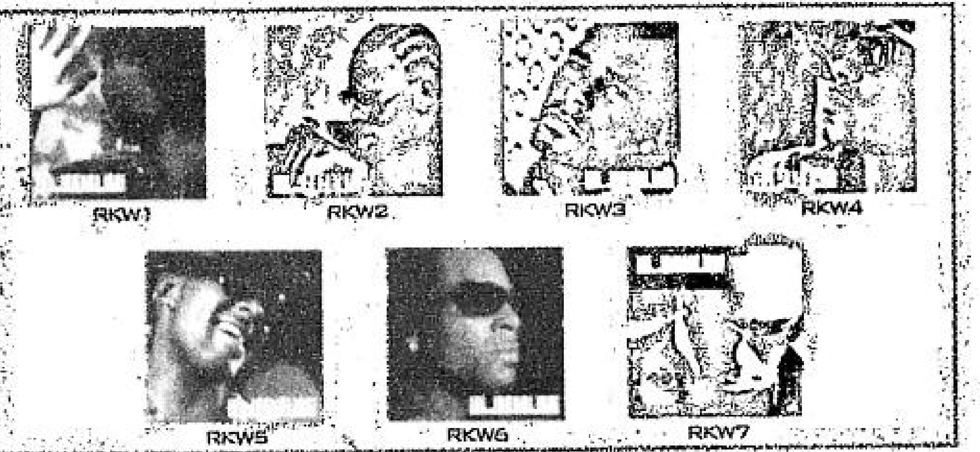
PEACE ☮ RKL2
Happy People RKL3
U saved me RKL4
Weatherman RKL5
SPIRIT RKL6
Love Street RKL7

MMS WALLPAPERS [illegible]



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SATURDAY Super

G TONGI and Josh Dieron

HENRY Lim, Tim Yap, Wendy Puyat-Hotung and DJ Montano

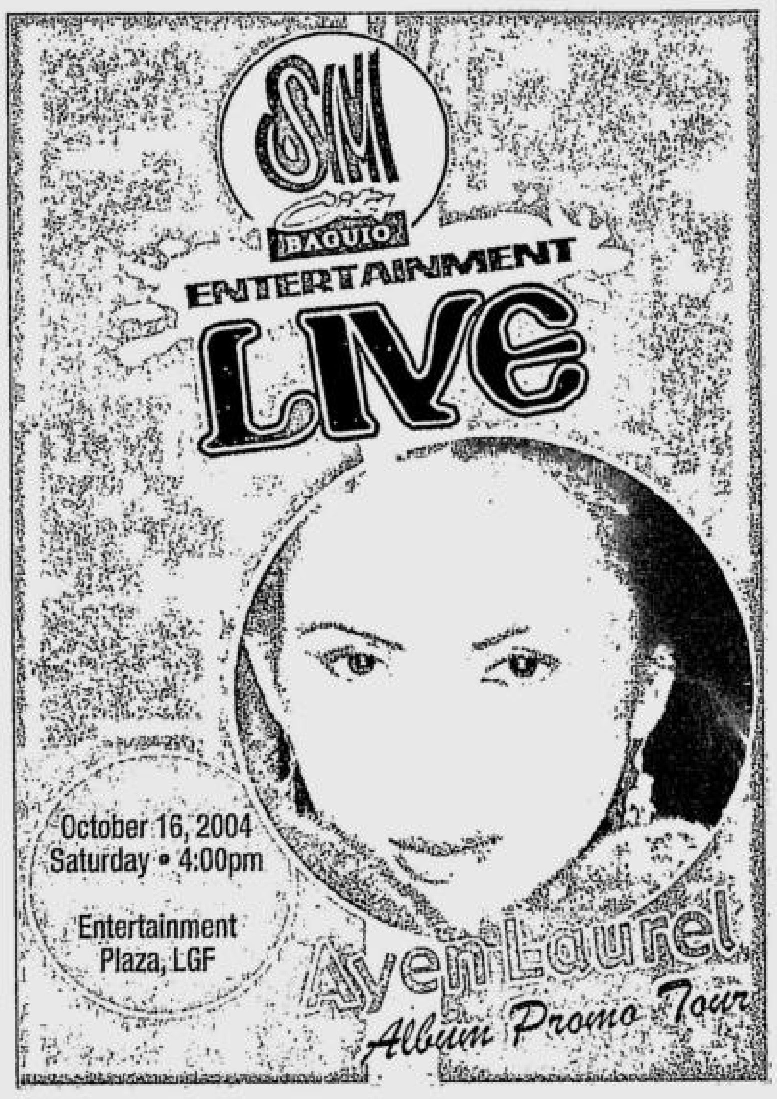
Government's warning

Lemon-aide

Giselle Segovia

PROBABLY the most promising in the latest batch of event organizers, Kokun detonated through the club scene like a test missile in an arid desert during their gala event just last summer which, was also coincidentally the country's first-ever circuit party. "Flesh" marked their official entrance into Manila's gay community AND Manila's party circles. Like any other newbie in the business, the ubiquitous question that constantly hovers about is: can they sustain it? After a follow-up, outstanding and chock-a-block "Pink Saturday" shebang, these four good-looking and stylish guys (Henry Lim, Josh Dieron, Raj Autenciano and Ramon Lee-Ho) sure are sustaining it, big time. Proof of that is: who would've guessed it but reopening the old club Olive

GOVERNMENT'S/ H3



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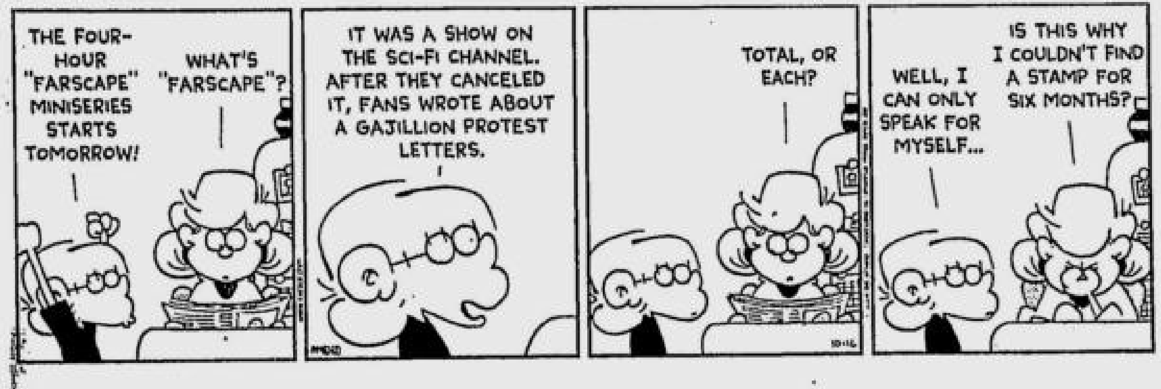
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND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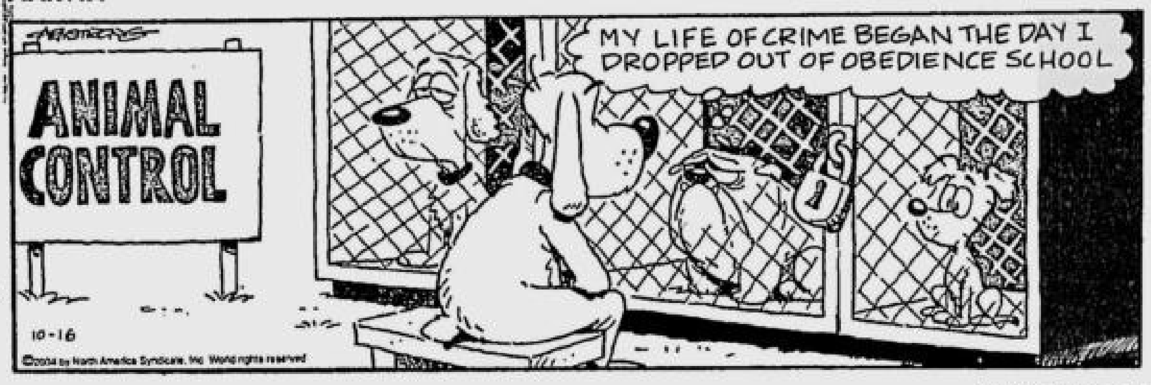
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


ANIMAL CONTROL
MY LIFE OF CRIME BEGAN THE DAY I DROPPED OUT OF OBEDIENCE SCHOOL
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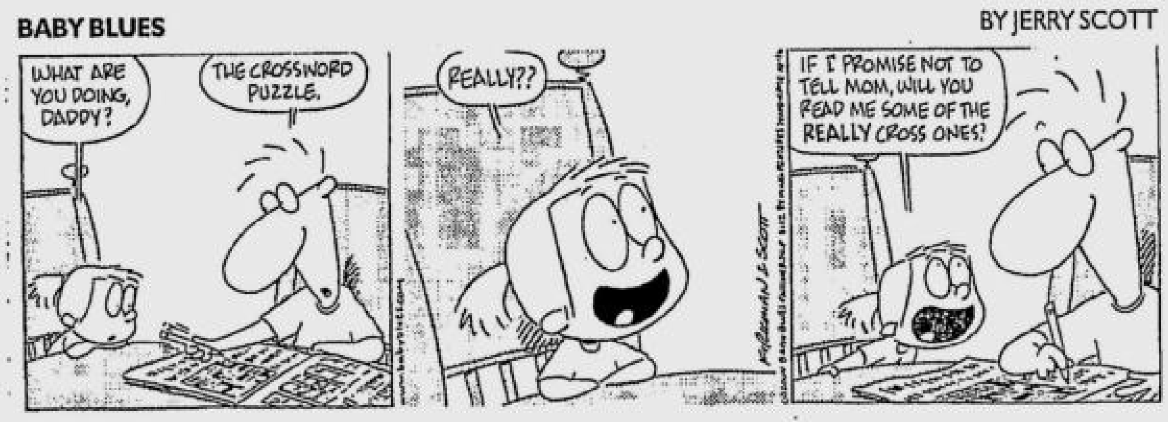
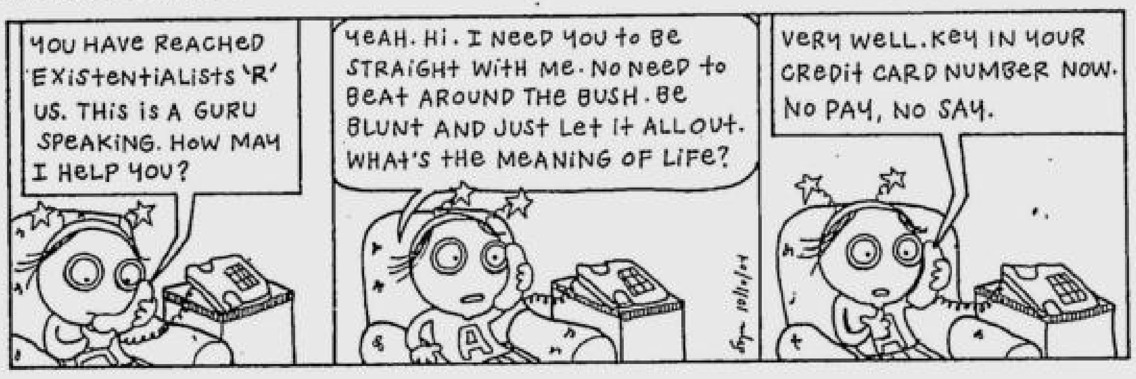
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT ARE YOU DOING, DADDY?
THE CROSSWORD PUZZLE.
REALLY??
IF I PROMISE NOT TO TELL MOM, WILL YOU READ ME SOME OF THE REALLY CROSS ONES?

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


YOU HAVE REACHED EXISTENTIALISTS 'R' US. THIS IS A GURU SPEAKING. HOW MAY I HELP YOU?
YEAH. HI. I NEED YOU TO BE STRAIGHT WITH ME. NO NEED TO BEAT AROUND THE BUSH. BE BLUNT AND JUST LET IT ALL OUT. WHAT'S THE MEANING OF LIFE?
VERY WELL. KEY IN YOUR CREDIT CARD NUMBER NOW. NO PAY, NO SAY.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are forever young at heart. Justice matters to you: You fight for what is fair. You are never casual about important issues in society and your family. You have strong opinions that generally inspire respect from others. You try to live up to your beliefs. This year major changes will take place (akin to 1995-96). **Birthdate of:** Tim Robbins, actor/writer/director; Eugene O'Neill, writer; Angela Lansbury, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): An interesting phenomenon takes place now in the universe. It makes you curious about secrets. And it also enhances your ability to discover them! Oo la la! (Be discreet.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Mercury—the planet of communication and everyday activities—now opposes you. In the month ahead, you might think others are tearing apart your ideas or being critical.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your ability to work hard at your job will improve now and in the next few weeks. Suddenly, you're Johnny-on-the-spot! It's easy to concentrate on details.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You're in the mood for fun and amusing pastimes. You want to have a good time! Reading, writing and playing games definitely appeal to you now and in the next few weeks.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Discussions with parents and family members are important for the rest of the month. It's also a good time to attend to repairs and practical concerns at home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Busy month ahead! It's not the time to settle down and relax. Quite the opposite: The tempo of daily events is accelerating.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You're more concerned about money, cash flow and business matters now and in the next few weeks. You've got a lot on your mind. You might also be shopping more than usual.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You'll find it easy to express yourself to people now, because Mercury is in your sign for the next three weeks. This encourages you to put a lot of yourself into whatever you have to say.

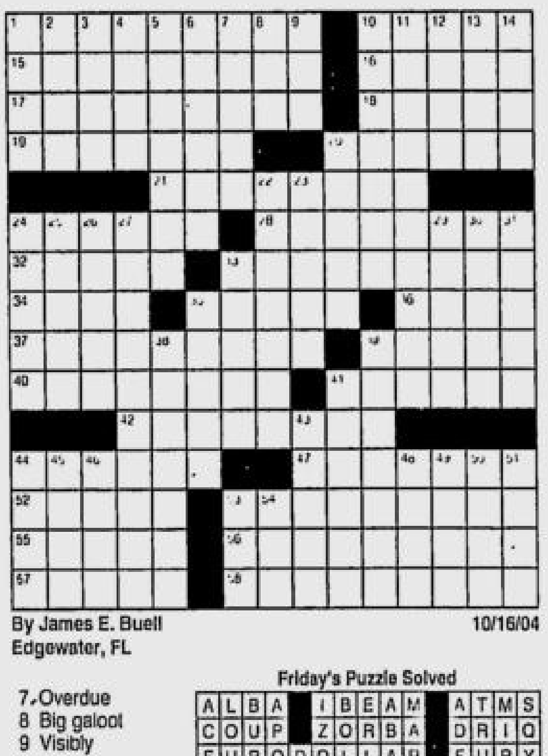
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a good time to turn your attention to solving mysteries or discovering solutions to old problems. You'll be amazed at the headway you can make.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Conversations with others are suddenly more meaningful. You have something secretive that you want to tell a friend.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You might encounter more debates and arguments than usual in the next few weeks. But you don't have to. It all depends on how you choose to respond to people who don't agree with you.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Your desire to visit other countries or travel somewhere increases in the next few weeks. You have a genuine curiosity about other things and distant places.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL

10/16/04

ACROSS
1 Temple's book
10 1836 siege site
15 Recording medium
16 Fibula's neighbor
17 Opened
18 Something to write home about
19 Arranged in advance
20 Some lyric poets
21 Cosmetics constituent
24 Ancient calculator
28 Ornate centerpieces
32 19th-century round dance
33 Marmaduke, e.g.
34 Lena or Ken
35 Run like madras
36 Bakery box?
37 Stops along the road
39 Bridge coups
40 Like a main highway
41 Sports car competition
42 Records one's departure
44 Bandito's chips
47 Sleep inducers
52 Turkish cash
53 Order a table for one
55 Kind of acid
56 Begin dressing down
57 Buttinskys
58 Commercial comparison

DOWN
1 Andy of comics
2 Pitch
3 Birth of a notion
4 Portray in words
5 Fixing, as locks
6 Becomes inflexible
7 Overdue
8 Big galoot
9 Visibly embarrassed
10 Swallowed one's pride
11 Real looker
12 Fortas and Lincoln
13 After-dinner tidbit
14 Stable staple
20 Nymph in myth
22 Muesli and Total
23 Some rapiers
24 Ancient bazaar
25 Farm machine
26 Most-wanted group
27 Game-show participant
29 Of warships
30 Other side
31 Intuit
33 Gather gradually
35 Ship coolers
38 Melodic opera passages
39 Fill to the brim
41 Everett or Murdoch
43 Mrs. Chaplin and others
44 Wave up and down
45 Icy coating
46 "Elegy for _"
48 Came down to earth
49 Speech subtlety
50 Son of Seth
51 On the way
53 Summer hrs.
54 Eng. instruction letters

Friday's Puzzle Solved

A	L	B	A	■	I	B	E	A	M	■	A	T	M	S
C	O	U	P	■	Z	O	R	B	A	■	D	R	I	Q
E	U	R	O	D	O	L	L	A	R	■	F	U	R	Y
R	I	N	S	E	D	■	■	C	A	P	E	C	O	D
B	E	T	T	E	■	S	K	I	■	L	E	K	■	■
■	■	■	A	R	S	O	N	■	P	A	S	S	B	Y
S	H	E	S	■	U	N	I	S	O	N	■	T	A	O
H	A	Z	Y	■	S	I	G	N	S	■	C	O	R	K
A	R	R	■	C	A	C	H	E	T	■	E	P	E	E
H	E	A	V	E	N	■	T	A	S	K	S	■	■	■
■	■	P	A	N	■	A	S	K	■	O	A	S	I	S
C	H	O	U	T	O	N	■	■	M	O	R	T	A	L
H	A	U	L	■	I	N	N	E	R	P	E	A	C	E
I	S	N	T	■	L	I	A	R	S	■	A	V	O	W
P	A	D	S	■	S	E	S	A	C	■	N	E	S	S

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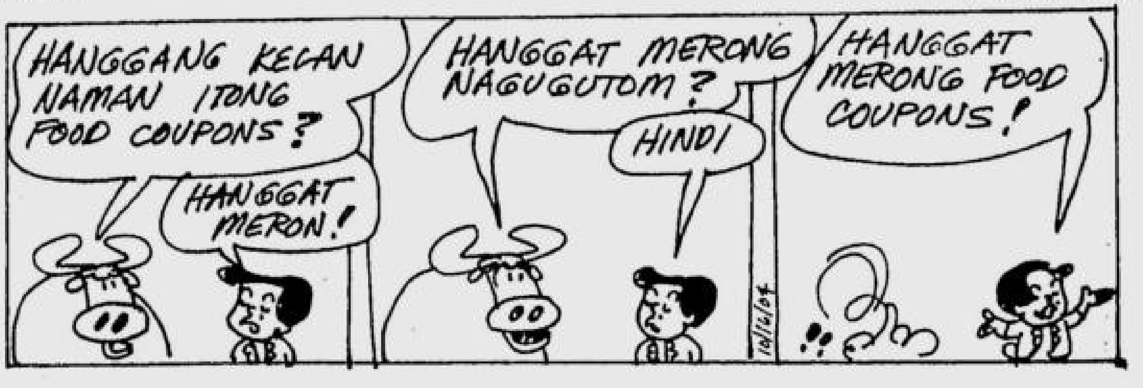
10/16/04

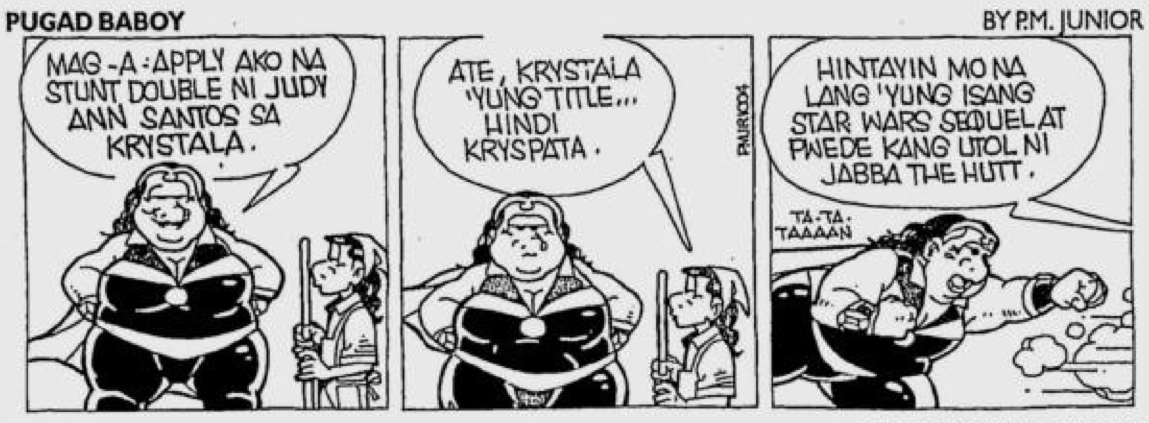
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


HANGGANG KELAN NAMAN ITONG FOOD COUPONS?
HANGGAT MERON!
HANGGAT MERONG NAGUGUTOM?
HINDI
10/16/04
HANGGAT MERONG FOOD COUPONS!

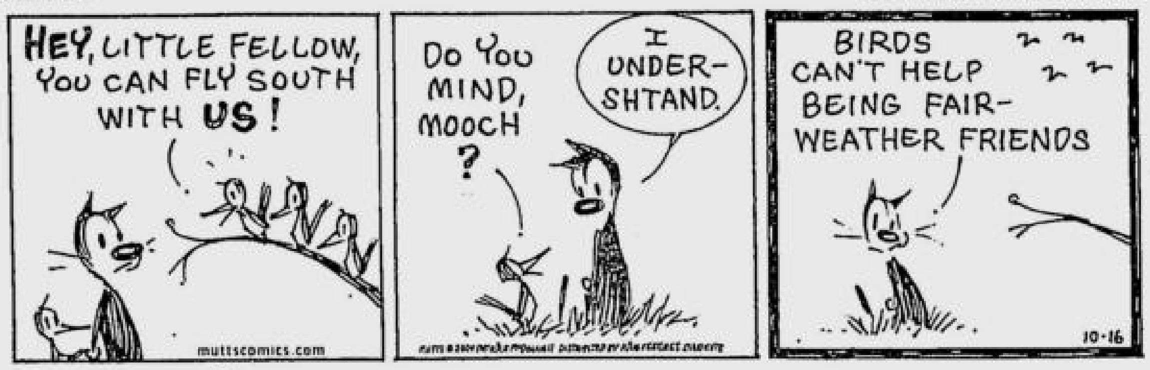
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MAG-A-APPLY AKO NA STUNT DOUBLE NI JUDY ANN SANTOS SA KRYSTALA.
ATE, KRYSTALA 'YUNG TITLE... HINDI KRYSPATA.
HINTAYIN MO NA LANG 'YUNG ISANG STAR WARS SEQUEL AT PWEDE KANG UTOL NI JABBA THE HUTT.
TA-TA-TAAAAN

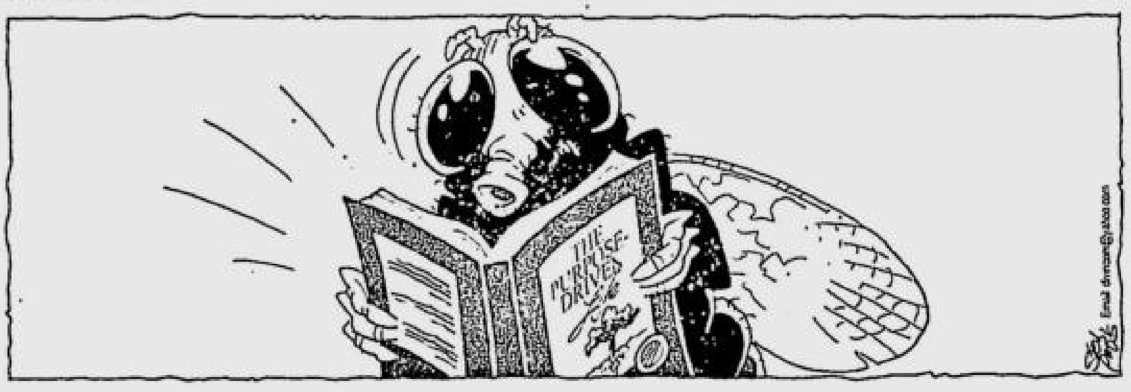
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HEY, LITTLE FELLOW, YOU CAN FLY SOUTH WITH US!
DO YOU MIND, MOOCH?
I UNDER-SHTAND.
BIRDS CAN'T HELP BEING FAIR-WEATHER FRIENDS
muttscomics.com
10-16

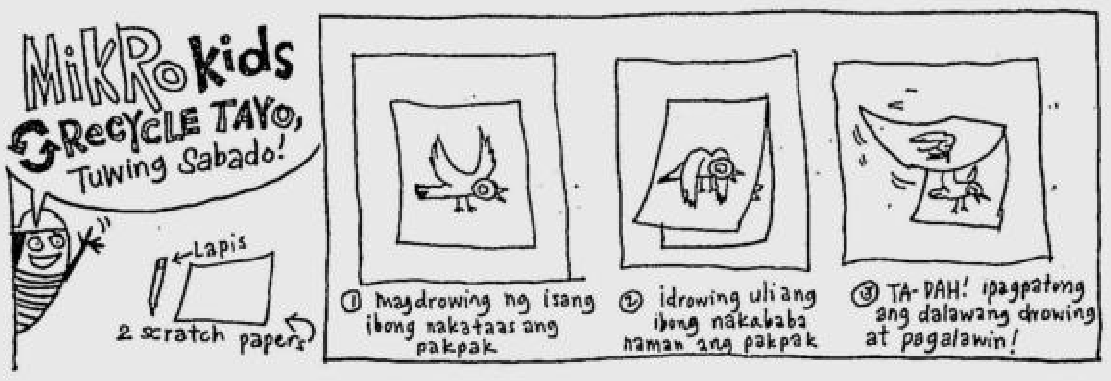
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


THE PURPOSE-DRIVEN

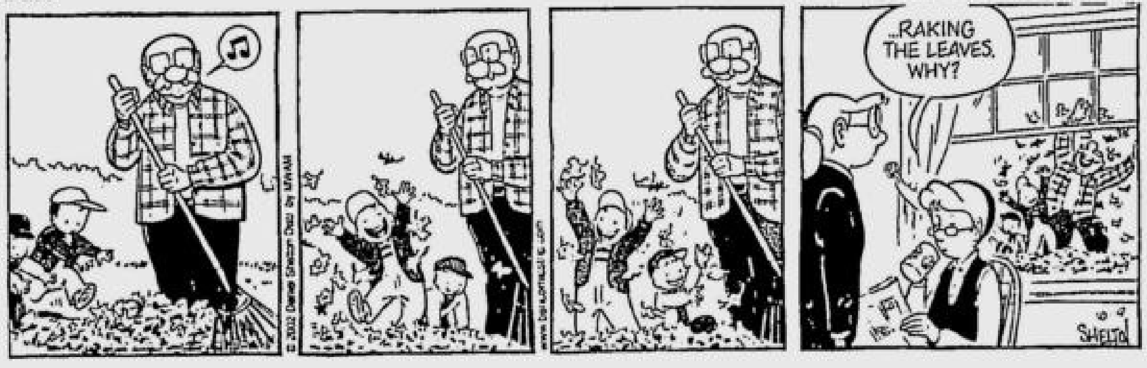
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRo Kids
RECYCLE TAYO, Tuwing Sabado!
Lapis
2 scratch papers
① magdrowing ng isang ibong nakataas ang pakpak
② idrowing uli ang ibong nakababa naman ang pakpak
③ TA-DAH! ipagpatong ang dalawang drowing at pagalawin!

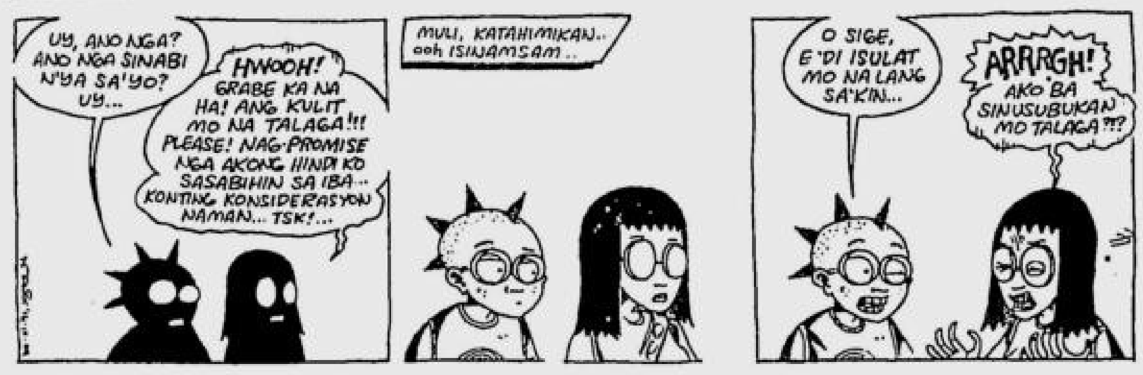
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


..RAKING THE LEAVES. WHY?
SHELTON

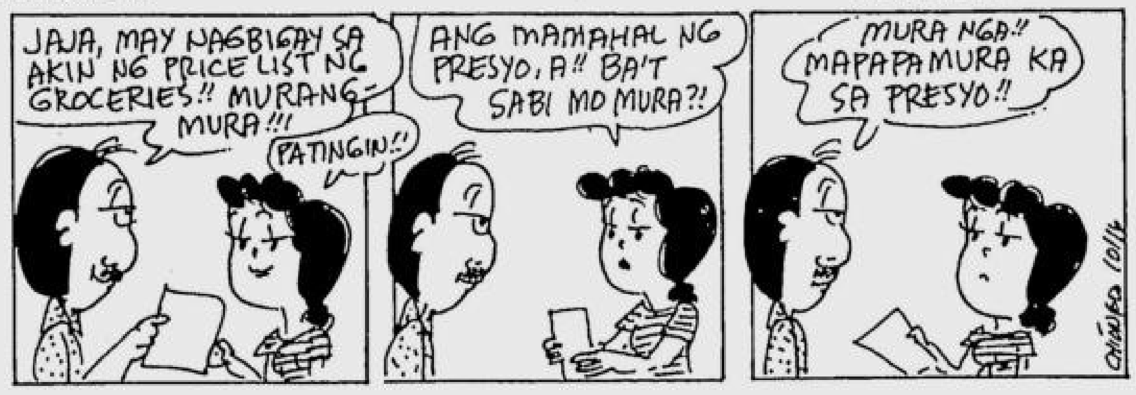
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


UY, ANO NGA? ANO NGA SINABI N'YA SA'YO? UY...
HWOOH! GRABE KA NA HA! ANG KULIT MO NA TALAGA!!! PLEASE! NAG-PROMISE NGA AKONG HINDI KO SASABIHIN SA IBA... KONTING KONSIDERASYON NAMAN... TSK!...
MULI, KATAHIMIKAN.. ooh ISINAMSAM..
O SIGE, E'DI ISULAT MO NA LANG SA'KIN...
ARRRGH! AKO BA SINUSUBUKAN MO TALAGA?!?

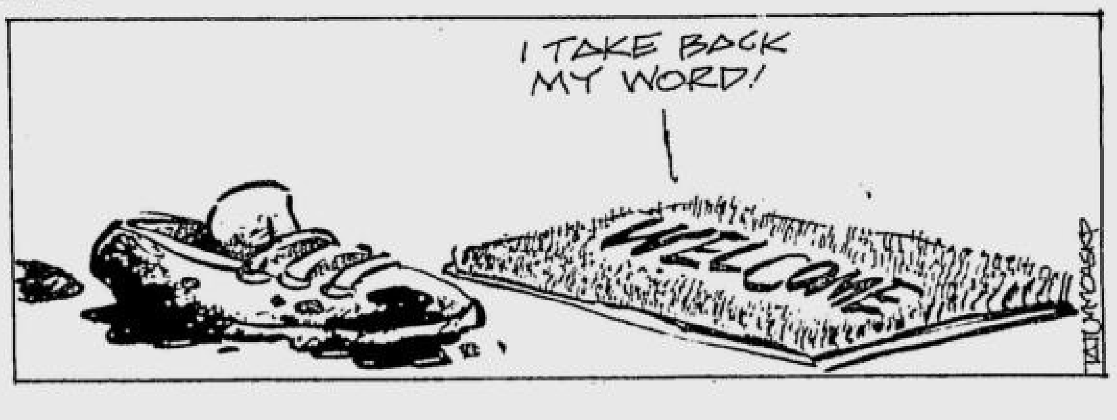
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JAJA, MAY NAGBIGAY SA AKIN NG PRICE LIST NG GROCERIES!! MURANG-MURA!!!
PATINGIN!!
ANG MAMAHAL NG PRESYO, A!! BA'T SABI MO MURA?!
MURA NGA!! MAPAPAMURA KA SA PRESYO!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


I TAKE BACK MY WORD!
WELCOME

RAJO Laurel, Patrick Reyno, Celine Lopez, Katrina and Carmen Delgado

CHRISTINE San Diego and Lance Feliciano

THE NEW
Government

THE OTHER half of Kokun: Raj Autenciano and Ramon Lee-Ho

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Government's . . .

From page H1

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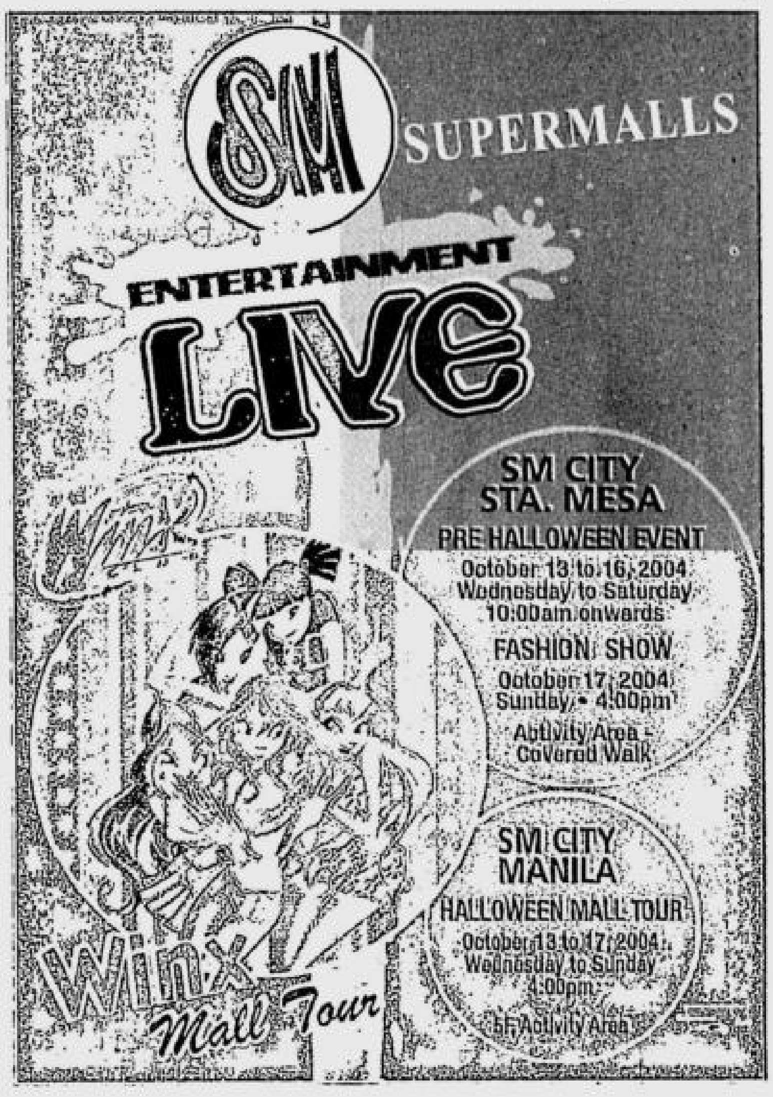

SM CITY
STA. MESA
PRE HALLOWEEN EVENT
October 13 to 16, 2004
Wednesday to Saturday
10:00am onwards
FASHION SHOW
October 17, 2004
Sunday • 4:00pm
Activity Area - Covered Walk

SM CITY
MANILA
HALLOWEEN MALL TOUR
October 13 to 17, 2004
Wednesday to Sunday
4:00pm
5F Activity Area

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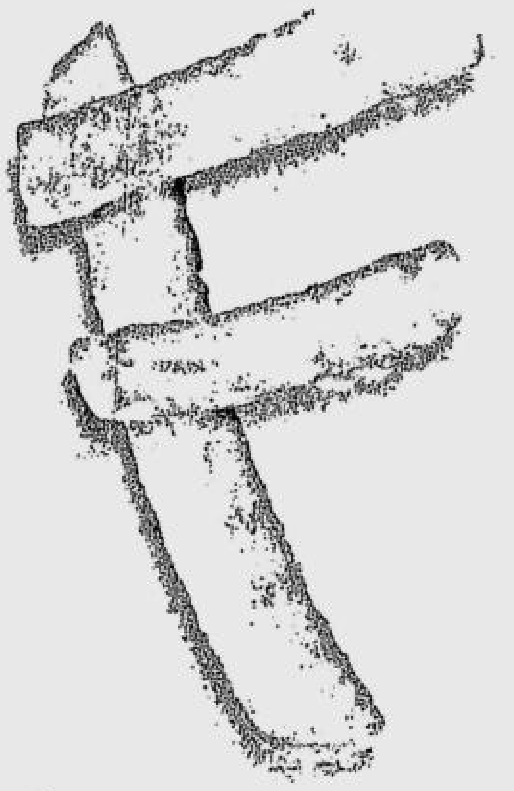
Cinco Holdings Corporation
Potato Corner™
China China
WONDER WAFFLE
Slippery Sam's
Quick stiX

Now that we're 12,
more & more people are going

for the



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Potato Corner™

Care to own a Franchise?
Call **534-5845** to **46** or Fax **534-5849** and find out how you can apply!
www.potatocorner.com
E-mail: cincofranchise@yahoo.com / franchisemastersone@yahoo.com

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

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THE OTHER half of Kokun: Raj Autenciano and Ramon Lee-Ho

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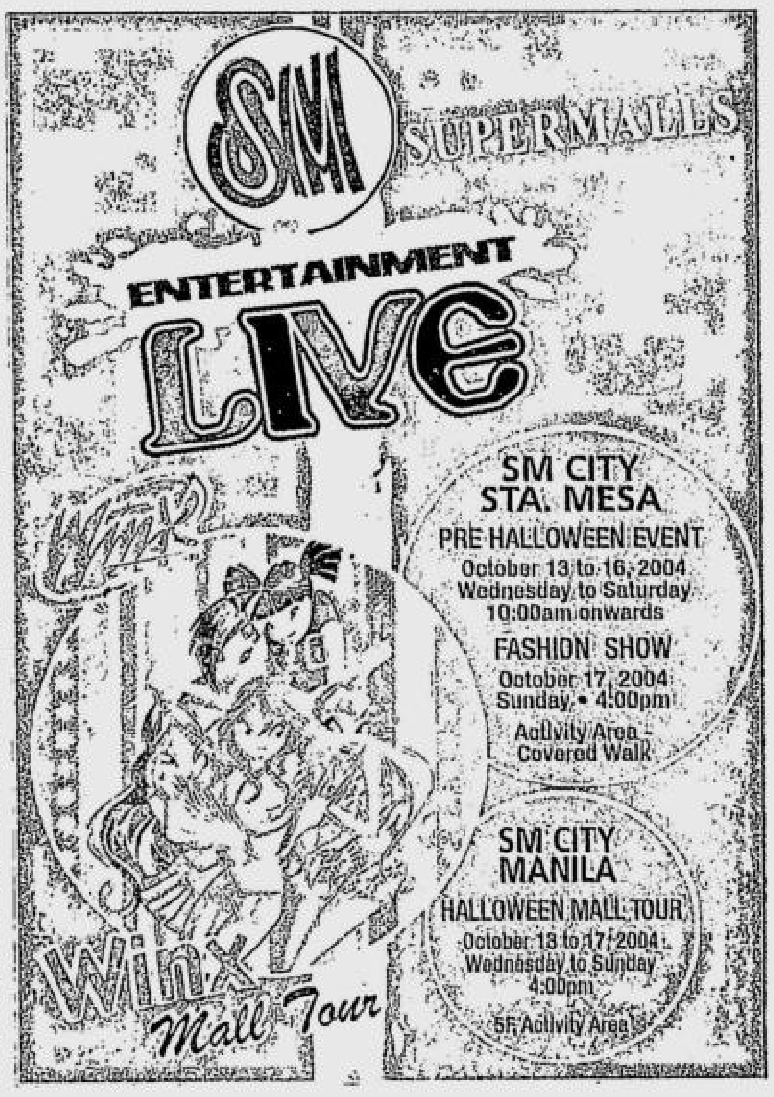

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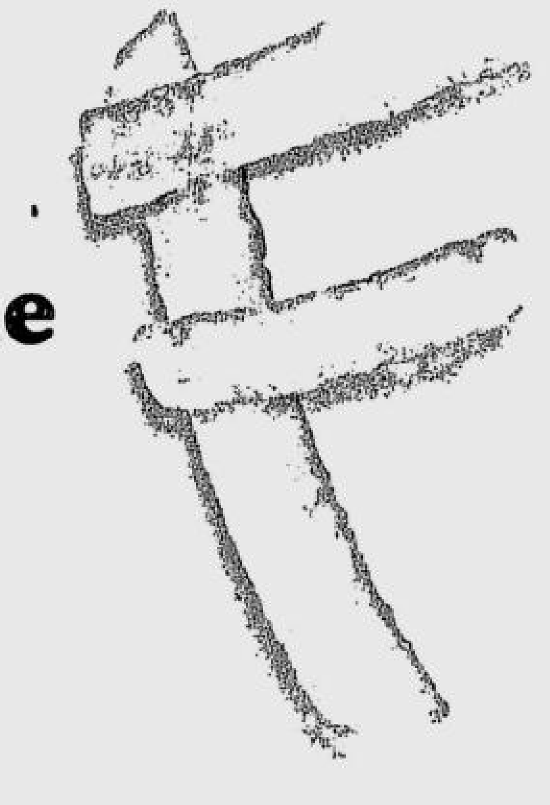
Cinco Holdings Corporation

Potato Corner
China China
WONDER WAFFLE
Slippery Sam's
Quick stiX

Now that we're 12, more & more people are going



for the F word.

What better way to celebrate Potato Corner's 12th anniversary than to be the country's biggest F! The Filipino's Favorite, Flavored French Fries and Fortune-making Franchise! Through the years, we have become a multi-awarded leader in the Franchising industry with our continuous expansion and Fresh, Fantastic products.

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Nestlé baby

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NOKIA
Nestlé baby
C

Get a chance to win a Nokia 7610 with image viewer and a year's supply of Nestlé BABY food* in the SMART Gold & Nestlé BABY MMS Photo Contest

Send photos** of your little bundle of joy via MMS for a chance to win.

To join, compose an MMS message with the following information typed-in:

BABY JOIN *<Baby's complete name> <Age in months> <Sex> <Address>*	BABY JOIN *Jessa Velasquez* *10mos F Sta. Mesa, Manila*	Send to *34833*.	**34833**

Receive a Nestlé BABY Gift Pack in two ways.

Download a mobile coupon...

Subscribe to receive morning baby tips or Nestlé BABY food recipes and get*** a mobile coupon you can use to avail of your gift pack.

****After the fifth day of your MMS subscription or the 7th day of your SMS subscription.*

...Or subscribe† to SMART Gold.

Approved SMART Gold subscriptions to Plan 500 or 800 each get a gift pack.

Current SMART Gold subscribers will receive a SMART-Nestlé BABY picture frame.

†Conditions for subscriptions apply.

LOGOS

Nestle Baby
Baby!
Baby!
NestleBaby!

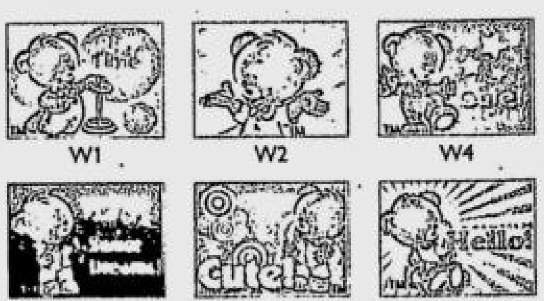
L1 L2 L3 L4 L5

PICTURE MESSAGES

Nestle Baby!
Hello!
Smile!
Fun! Fun! Fun! Fun! Fun!

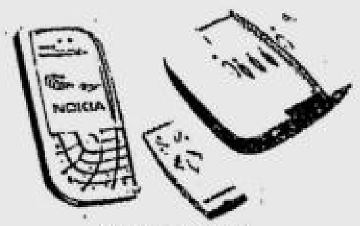
P1 P2 P3 P4 P5

MMS WALLPAPERS


Time
Cute!
Hello!

W1 W2 W4

W6 W7 W9



NOKIA 7610 W/ IMAGE VIEWER

Text BABY to 34833

* *Or Nestlé Growing Up Milk.*
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See flyers for details.
Promo Duration: Oct. 9 - Nov. 8, 2004 Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2407, Series of 2004

SATURDAY Super

SuperFriends!

25 girls like you

HAZEL TANEDO

21, ADMU

I love: Playing and competing in tennis (I'm on the tennis varsity team). Reading—when I do find the time; the beach; massage; traveling; eating; shopping; debating about peculiar topics, and, of course, spending time with my family and friends.
I wanna meet: Hilary Clinton
I dislike: Tycoons
The thing that sets me apart is: I'm unpredictable. I may have pizza now but I can hate it tomorrow. I always have to be munching on something. I always eat like there's no tomorrow. I want to live my life like the movies.
Filipina Achiever: Corazon Aquino
Email me at: h_tanedo@yahoo.com

By Tim Yap
Photos by Daniel Tan

Instead of signing up the latest big star or another big-name image model to represent its new spirit, girl power brand Bayo has decided that the new Bayo Girl is none other than "A Girl Like You"—the everyday ordinary Filipina woman—versatile, intelligent, beautiful and stylish.

Super! clicked them up on Friendster, stalked them during their launch night fashion show at the Ayala Center and made them part of Superfriends! To join our growing roster of superfriends, email us at super@inquirer.com.ph

ANIELLE SANTOS

19, ADMU

I love: Designing skirts, tops and bags (I make my own clothes and bags); swimming; running; painting (watercolors); shopping
I wanna meet: Sting
5 things I can't live without: my dog Colby, music, candles, watch, color
When I grow up, I want: To be a traveler (from Traveler on Discovery)
I dislike: People who chew noisily, hair in the food and in the bathroom, reptiles, things that don't match
The thing that sets me apart is: I love the ends of bread loaves, I love ketchup, I can do a split
Filipino Achiever: I absolutely adore Imelda Marcos because she made it a point to help Filipinos
Email me at: anielle_santos@yahoo.com

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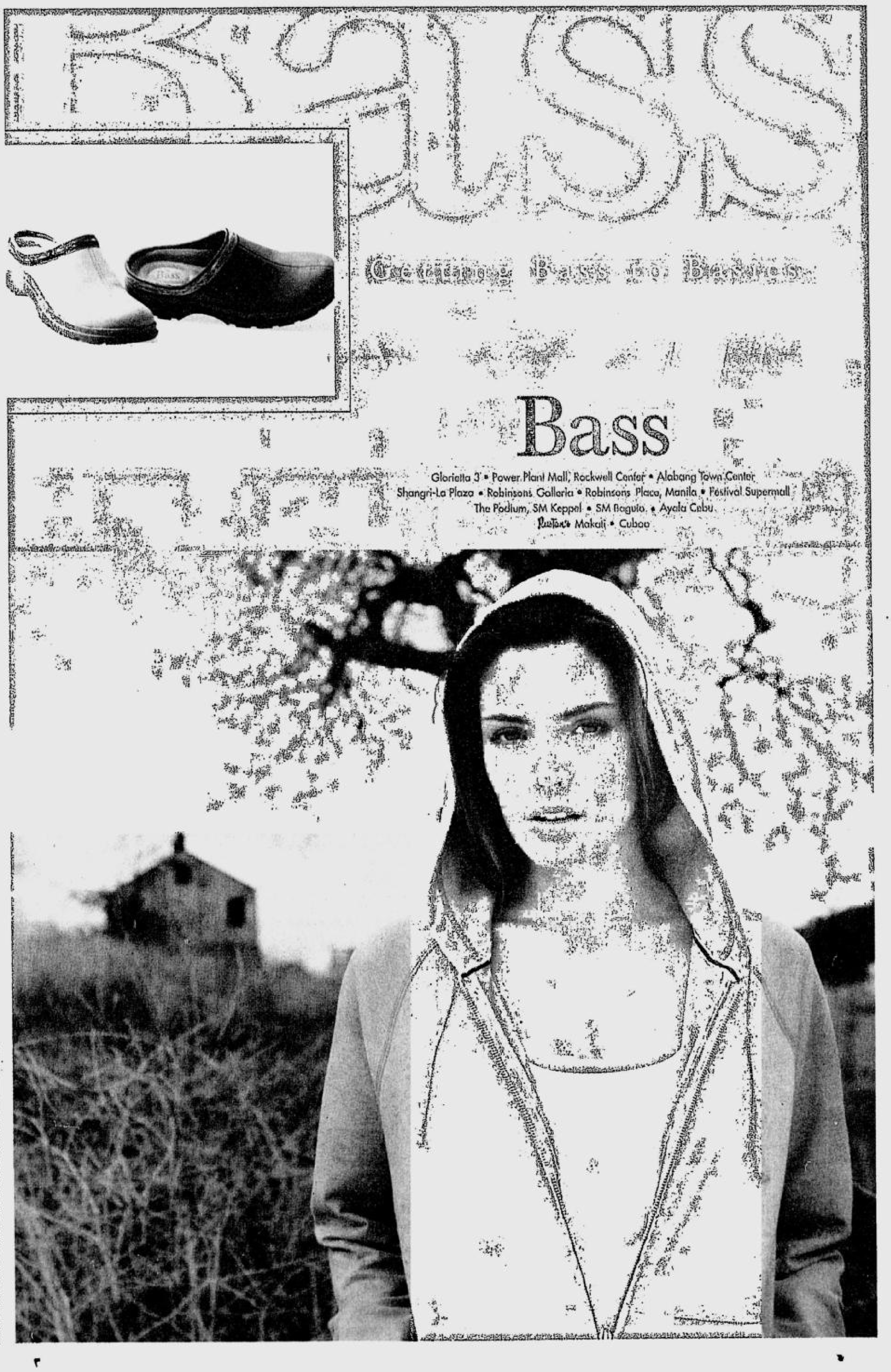

Bass
Glorietta 3 • Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center • Alabang Town Center
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The Podium, SM Keppel • SM Baguio • Ayala Cebu
Rustan's Makati • Cubao

MICHELLE PAMINTUAN

18, ADMU

I love: I absolutely love going to the gym, then pigging out afterwards.
I wanna meet: Kylie Minogue so she can teach me how to move like her.
Email me at: chelle_pam@yahoo.com

JANA DE LEON

20, ASSUMPTION

When I grow up, I want: I want to host a travel show
I dislike: Guys who have F&P sydrome
The thing that sets me apart is: I can roll my iris fast
Email me at: jana_103083@yahoo.com

PAULA DEL ROSARIO

18, UA&P

I love: I really love shopping. I love buying clothes and wearing them right away. I also love shoes. I wanna beat Imelda's record.
Email me at: littlefreakinpaula@yahoo.com

GRETCHEN FULLIDO

20, UP

I love: Swimming and water polo (I used to be on the national team in these sports), varsity sports (in UP Diliman), sportscasting (being a UAAP courtside reporter) dancing; singing; acting; vjing; shopping
Email me at: water_gretch@yahoo.com

MONICA MENDIOLA

20, ADMU

I love: playing; traveling; bumming around with my girlfriends; watching romantic comedies; going to the beach.
When I grow up, I want: To be the most kick-ass lawyer this country has ever seen
Email me at: monica_annmendiola@yahoo.com

[illegible]

20, ADMU

I love: Equestrian, dancing, baking, beach bumming, sketching, painting
When I grow up, I want: To be a dolphin trainer at Sea World
I look up to: Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski
Email me at: bettina1270@yahoo.com

MARIANNE CHAVEZ

19, ST. SCHO

I love: Gymnastics (I'm a former Sea Games gymnast), shopping, movie marathons, eating chocolates
I wanna meet: Alina Kabaeva (no. 1 gymnast in the world)
I look up to: Liza Macuja
Email me at: mariannechavez_1219@yahoo.com

CHRIS CABRERA

21, ADMU

I love: Going on food ventures. Road trips with friends. Traveling—I'm in love with Boston.
I look up to: My mom (Lolita Cabrera—she's superb!)
Email me at: chriscabre@yahoo.com

KINA SANTILLAN

20,UP

I wanna meet: The French philosopher, Michel Foucault
The thing that sets me apart is: My birth certificate says that I'm male. I love salty food; when I just won't taste food in my mouth, I eat salt.
Email me at: kina@santillan.net

ANGELA SEE

21, DLSU

When I grow up, I want: To be in retail and anything that entails traveling the world
I dislike: Untidiness, narrow-minded people, deadlines, anything that posts restrictions on me and traffic
Email me at: angela_beatrice@yahoo.com

25 girls like you

ELIZABETH AGUIRRE

17, ADMU

I love: Reading, going to the beach, animals (especially dogs), walking under the rain.
I look up to: Miriam Quiambao
Email me at: elizab_a@yahoo.com

MARGA CACHO

20, DLSU

The thing that sets me apart is: I can turn as red as a tomato when I get embarrassed!
I look up to: Chin Chin Gutierrez. She was on the cover of Time magazine for being one of the most prominent environmentalists.
Email me at: margacacho@hotmail.com

TISHA VELOSO

21, UP

I dislike: Insincerity
I look up to: All Filipinas. They're all coming out of their shells. From a patriarchal society making the best of themselves serving to be the cream of the crop in their respective fields.
Email me at: tishaveloso@hotmail.com

PAM ABESAMIS

18, GCIC

I love: Staring up at the sky, window shopping, reading magazines, listening to the radio, making accessories, making something creative out of crap
When I grow up, I want: To be an eventologist like Tim Yap
Email me at: pam_exclusive02@yahoo.com

CAMILLE CO

20, DLSU

The thing that sets me apart is: My ears fold downwards
I look up to: Verns Buckley, Supermodel of the World Philippines, because she's the epitome of simplicity and elegance.
Email me at: camillecious@yahoo.com

JOSHUA SORIANO

17, MIRIAM

I wanna meet: Brandon Boyd
When I grow up, I want to: Be a doctor, lawyer, firefighter and businesswoman
I dislike: Mestizo guys
I look up to: Imee Marcos. She's smart.
Email me at: mokkaly@yahoo.com

KARA TIMAN

20, ADMU

When I grow up, I want: I have a million dream jobs. A dream job for me is a job that entails traveling, interacting with people and doing things spontaneously.
I look up to: Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, Gina Lopez
Email me at: kara_timan@yahoo.com

[illegible]

18, DLSU

I dislike: People who try to be who or what they're not
The thing that sets me apart is: I'm partially obsessive compulsive and when I get the sudden urge to fix things, I have to get up and fix it until it's all clean.
Email me at: kundac_me@yahoo.com

JESSICA GALLEGOS

19, UA&P

I wanna meet:
Piaget, because he enormously influenced my field of study now (Child Development Education). Without him I wouldn't have understood children as much as I do now.
Email me at:
katrinajess@yahoo.com

DARA BASCARA

21, UP

Interests: Politics, human rights, Philippine corruption, globalization, Philippine education situation, fashion, visual arts
When I grow up, I want: Anything that will enable me to realize my potential and make a difference."
Email me at: darabascara@yahoo.com

Oh caption, my caption!

By Tals Diaz and Gino de la Paz

AH... WE just love Paris in the bed-springtime! Apparently, so do hordes of witty Super! readers, who we truly believe are getting better at this photo name game every week. Providing a caption for Paris Hilton—who was porn with a silver spoon (chuckle, chuckle)—proved not to be such a simple life this week. But not for Lloyd Santos! Congratulations, Lloyd! Are you related to Ate Vi?!! You win a free trip to Paris, you lucky dog!!!

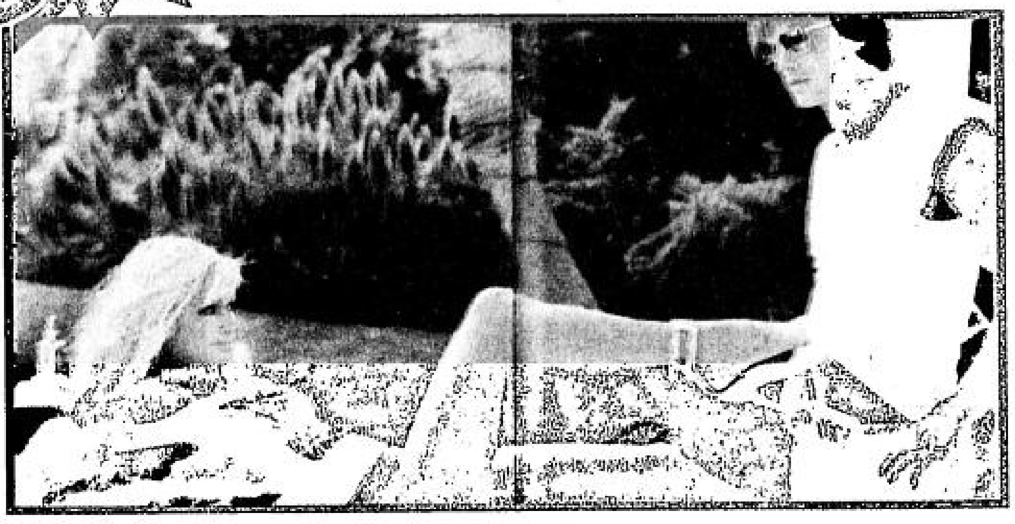
Just kidding. You are now the proud, and well-deserved owner of a one-of-a-kind souvenir T-shirt that says: "I captioned Paris and all I got was this lousy T-shirt!" We're kidding again. (Yes, we like to do that, cheap thrill whores that we are). You got something not lousy, but cool—a ringer T-shirt that says: "I am Super!" And all you had to do was think dirty, right? To claim your Super! souvenir, call our Marketing Department at 897-8808, say hey, and hope that they're not harassed.

Moving on, the judgment of Paris wouldn't be complete without mentioning the other Hilton-heads who made the cut:

PARIS: Do you have this in a size 9?
POOL BOY: Oh! you meant the shoe...
–Denise Sese

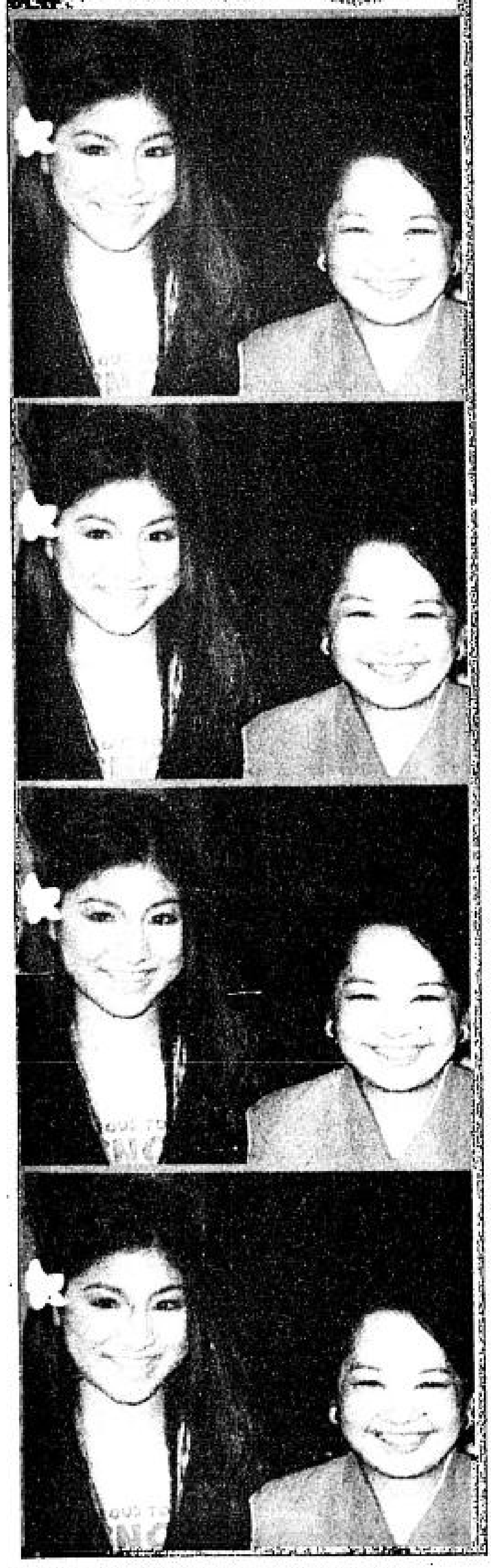
"Makati ba?"
–Noli Franco

"Paris—When she SIZZLES."
–Jowie Jeremias



"HMM... WHAT does this button do?" Sender: Lloyd Santos

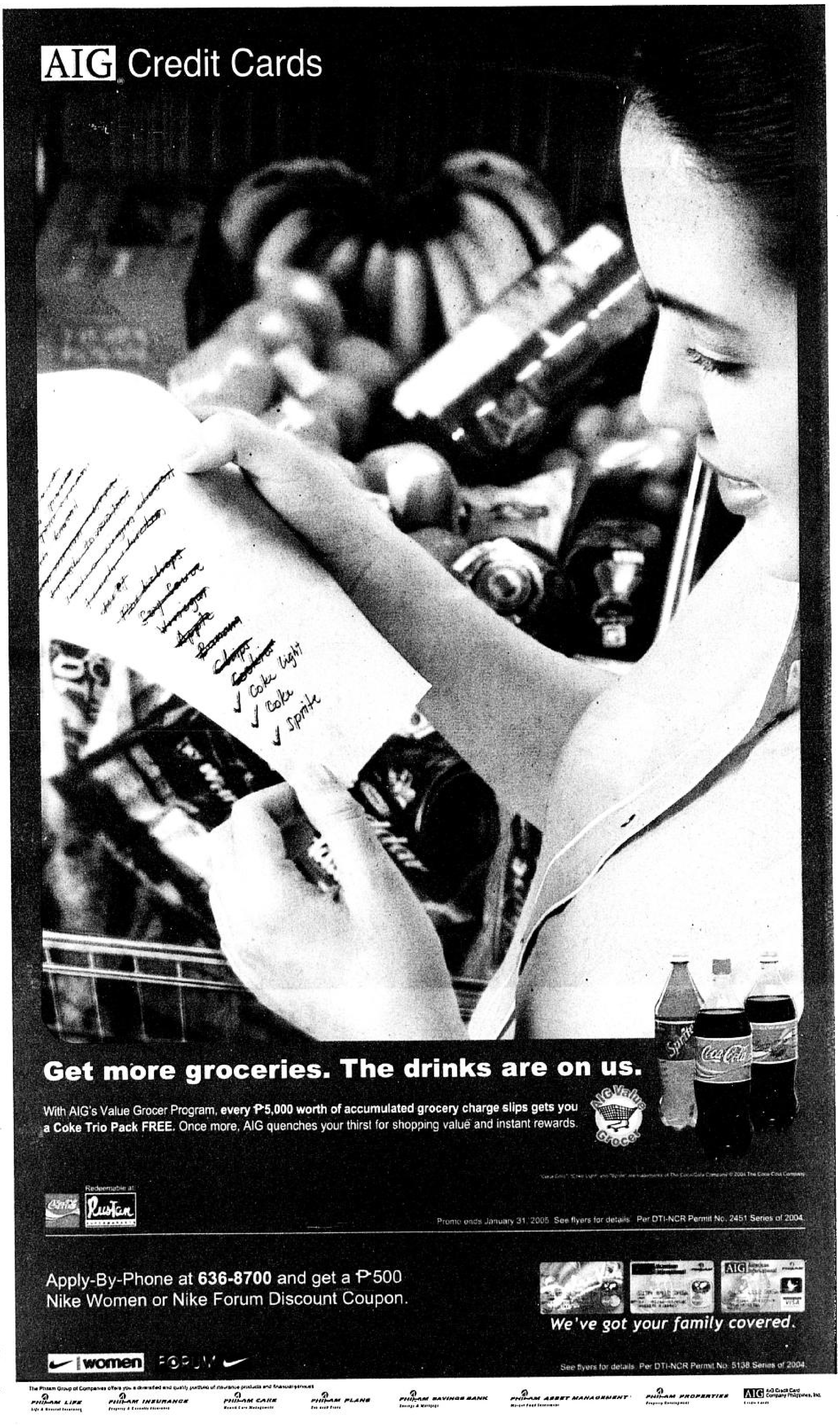
This Week's Challenge



SUPER!'S Caption: Tee-hee-hee. Do you hear it, too?

SHE'S baaaaack! For some reason, like that old Depeche Mode song, we just can't get enough of our Madame President. This time, she cozies up beside "American Idol" finalist Jasmine Trias, who has hula'd her way to our sunny shores. Aloha!

Anyway, it has come to our attention that *Ate Glo* actually reads Super!, according to an extremely flamboyant but nonetheless reliable source. *Lagot!* You know what that means. She was probably having a morning meeting with her Cabinet, going over pressing national issues as reported by the newspapers, not knowing that you—yes, you!—attached more than a few naughty captions to a presidential bad hair day. We assume that none of you burst into flames as we had previously feared because your emails keep on pouring in, a sure sign that you are alive and apparently kicking. Moreover, we also noticed that the Philippine stock market "has surged to highs not seen in more than four years." That's from big-dog news agency AFP, so it's gospel truth. Could there have been a connection between the height of GMA's mane and this bit of good news? As we figure that out, focus your wits on this week's challenge. As usual, e-mail us at super@inquirer.com.ph. Our inbox is waiting!



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See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5138 Series of 2004.

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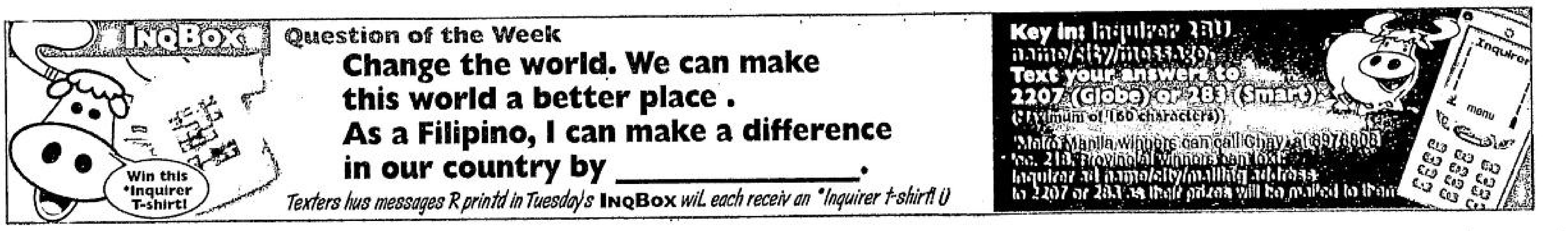

InqBox

Question of the Week

Change the world. We can make this world a better place.
As a Filipino, I can make a difference in our country by ______________.

Texters hus messages R printd in Tuesday's INQBOX wiL each receiv an "Inquirer t-shirt! ☺

Key in: Inquirer 3BU name/city/message. Text your answers to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart). (Maximum of 160 characters).

Metro Manila winners can call Chay at 8978808 loc. 218. Provincial winners can text: Inquirer ad name/city/mailing address to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them

25 girls like you

JOUELLA KHONGHUN

22, UST

I love: Outdoor stuff like wall climbing and rappeling; playing sports like football, volleyball and badminton; reading pocketbooks
When I grow up, I want: I want to be a very famous fashion designer, like Vera Wang. And I would like to open shops all over the world, and maybe someday I'd design clothes for the president.
I look up to: Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Email me at: sweetywella@yahoo.com

LORRAINE LAPUS

21, UA&P

I love: To be out in the sun, walking, biking, getting my 1 p.m. sun. My main sport is wall climbing; it's fun and challenging.
I wanna meet: Sting, Janet Jackson, Alicia Keys
When I grow up, I want: To own and run a resort in Palawan and save the seas
I dislike: Guys with hair sticking out of their nostrils, unbearable odor that doesn't go away, people who are fakers
Email me at: lil_redbuddha@yahoo.com

JESSICA JACINTO

18, DLSU

I love: To play badminton. I've been joining tournaments since grade school. I love reading books. I love going to the beach and hanging out with friends, but best of all, I love to travel.
I wanna meet: I would love to meet myself 30 years from now
I look up to: Patricia Evangelista. She joined a worldwide English public speaking contest in London and won first place out of 52 countries. She is only two batches above me.
Email me at: jess_jacinto1986@yahoo.com

Little Monsters, Welcome!

(Even the big ones, too).

It's ghouls, ghosts and goblins galore! The yearly Halloween bash at The Shang. Take your kids Trick or Treating in their costume finery.

And when the day is done, send the little monsters home and get the groove on with some Halloween festivity of your own! In fact, you can start Howling October as early as you want it to be.

Shang Kids Halloween Celebration 2004

Shang Halloween Kiddie Party
October 30, 2004, 1pm
Grand Atrium, Level 2

Kids Zone Fashion Show
October 30, 2004, 5pm
Grand Atrium, Level 2

Freebies at Kids Zone with Party Fantasy
Every P700 minimum purchase (accumulated or single receipt) from the Tenants at the Kids Zone, entitles you to FREE Arnott's goodies. October 15, 16, 17, 29, 30 & 31, 2004, 1-5pm
Kids Zone, Level 4

Kids Fashion Sale
October 15-31, 2004
Participating Stores
Kids Zone, Level 4

Beagle Place · Croco Kids · Gingersnaps · Havin' a Baby · Kidz Station · Kidsports · Maxitoylab · Maxibear · Meet My Feet · Orange Juice · Osh Kosh B'Gosh · Queen Alice · Spin · The Big & Small Co. · Toddler's Nook

Per DTI-NCR Permit No A3-700, Series of 2004

Shang Halloween Kiddie Party
October 30, 2004, Grand Atrium, Level 2

FREE Halloween Makeover for Kids, Cotton Candy, Halloween Balloons, Face Painting
1-5pm
Level 4

Pass the Broom Stick
1pm
Grand Atrium

Mummy Wrap
1:30pm
Grand Atrium

Halloween Comics Storytelling with Moo Moo Hunters of Mango Comics - 2pm-3pm Grand Atrium

Halloween Bring Me Contest- 3pm Grand Atrium

Trick or Treat! - 4pm-5pm
- The Trick or Treat activity is open to kids ages 12 and below who should come in their Halloween costumes.
- Only the first 250 registrants will be accommodated.
- A registration fee of P150 per child is required.
- First-come, first-served basis. There will be no refund.
- Registration is from October 8 to 29 (10am to 6pm) at the Shangri-La Plaza Corporation office at Level 5, Shangri-La Mall.
- Assembly time for the trick or treat will be at 4:00pm at the Grand Atrium, Fountain Area, Level 2.
- Kids will be divided into 5 color groups and will receive goodies from our sponsor.
- The participants will be brought around the mall for Trick or Treat.

For some monstrous fun!
Streetscape Shows 9:30 pm

October 22 Real Groove
October 23 Mulatto
October 29 Halloween Party featuring Fat Session and Limited Edition
October 30 D'Soul

Spine-tingling art!
- Encyclopedia of the Philippine Art Book Launching
  Artistree, October 23
- Art Exhibit by Lito de Guzman
  Asia Art Gallery, Art Plaza, Level 4
  October 21-28

Early Yuletide Rush
Corporate Gifts Fair
Mall Hours
October 7-17, 2004, Level 1
True Value, Han's Infinite, Kitchen Pro, Healthy Options, Play & Display

Deli Fresh · Coco King · Greenwich · Candy Corner · Crossing's Department Store · Gloria Maris · La Coeur De France · Mini Shabu Shabu · Ritz Apple Strudel and Pastries · Starbucks · Via Mare Express & Oyster Bar · Ambassador · Bossini · CA Comm · Café Provencal · California Pizza Kitchen · Celine · Florsheim · Gnomecrafts · Naturalizer · Replay · Royal Sporting House · BTYL Mktg · Anna Pashmina · Caswell Massey · Escada Sport / Laurel · Figaro · Liz Claiborne · Mico · Officina Corp. · Velvet Rose Lingerie · Audio Visual Driver Int'l · Bagno e Ceramica · Beagle Place · Collect & Cherish · Croco Kids · Elfie Nuñez DanCenter · Gallery 828 · Gingersnaps · Khunsaroy Perfume Gallery · Kidzstation · Maxitoylab · Meet My Feet · Osh Kosh B' Gosh · Restoration · Tin Ping · Cadbury · Color Me Mine · FunD' Mentals · Healthway Medical Clinics · In Style · JF Lazartigue · M Big Man · MG Oral Care Dental Clinic · Q Power Station · Sacred Heart School · Blenktown · TIB Taishan Financial Planning Group · Trattoria Gourmete · Tubby · Urban Spa · Mongkok Dimsum · The Blue Kitchen

love ko 'to'

Shangri-La Plaza

ÉLAN
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Editor Marge C. Enriquez

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2004 J1

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pdi_elan@inquirer.com.ph

Master of Values and Relationships

By Marge C. Enriquez

THE MEDIA has played up the crisis of values, yet there hasn't been felt the urgency to confront it head-on—until recently.

Denise Lawrence, British broadcaster, writer, international lecturer and teacher, has designed a course in Values and Spirituality. The teachings and experiential learning are based on the teachings of the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University, a non-government organization that is affiliated with the United Nations. There's nothing hokey about the knowledge. On the contrary, the teachings deal with problems that people encounter in their day-to-day lives.

The course consists of 12 modules that aim to shake up people and make them take a good look at themselves, develop and stand by certain values. One of the modules presents foolproof solutions to problems in human relationships.

Lawrence's premise is that others have their distinctive personalities, quirks, and idiosyncrasies that you may find challenging, in the same way that they can also be challenged by your traits, whims, and flaws.

"The focus is to accept each other and learn to harmonize," says Lawrence. "You need to be able to hold your own and maintain your self-respect, values and spiritual qualities, particularly in the face of provocation and obstacles. It is short-sighted to wish for ideal conditions because they limit your development."

She says the best situations for growth occur in adversity. The author lists practical tactics for improving personal relationships based on profound spiritual values.

1) Consider the mistakes of others to be your own. Ego makes you nit-pick on the blunders of others and adopt a holier-than-thou attitude. If you transmit the powerful ego reaction of judging others back to yourself, it might elicit important realizations about your own blunders. You become more humble, and more sympathetic.

Lawrence explains: "This makes you come to terms with the fact that you are very quick to accuse other people. When it comes to yourself, you have double standards. When you make a mistake, the first thing you will do is to cover it up. Depending on how smart you are, you could make it look as if somebody else did it. If somebody else makes a mistake, your normal reaction would be to point a finger. But if you consider the other person's mistake as yours, then instead of pointing a finger, you maintain dignity by not exposing it in the same way that you would not expose your own."

2) Those who insult you are your true friends. This precept is an effective way to curb your desire to be hear only adulation and quashes your automatic ego response to criticism.

"If somebody says you're being arrogant, you are likely to take that as an insult. You may become very arrogant while proving you are not arrogant. Unless somebody draws to your attention that you have this fault, you will not be able to deal with it or give it up. The person who becomes the instrument to get you to come off of it and makes you grow up is your friend. If someone back-stabs you, you have various options: ignore it; get upset about it; run around proving whatever was said is not the case, or pretend you didn't hear. The best attitude is to keep the faith that the truth reveals itself sooner or later. You don't have to say anything about it except to be true to yourself."

3) Be dispassionate in the face of success and failure, praise and blame, good and bad situations. These polarities create illusions that can make you feel helpless. If you nourish yourself with praise, the law of equals requires you to receive defamation to the same extent.

"The sycophants in your life are also the traitors. You can't buy into either side of it. When you do that, you are giving away your power. If somebody is praising you, don't bother. People who are hungry for praise can be controlled; they are like butter in one's finger. You don't put yourself in that situation. If you're good and you know it, there's no need for anybody to tell you. To protect yourself, examine your conscience everyday and chart your progress of character development."

> To obtain this degree, you only have to take a good look at yourself

4) Do not judge things or people by appearances. It is important not to be fooled by sensory influences, learn to listen to your inner voice. Follow logic and not emotions. Keep cultivating your intuition and perception to be able to see behind the veil of illusions. Don't look at things just at face value, but through the inner eye of awareness.

"Style comes and goes, but it doesn't prove or disprove anything. You have to deal yourself. You're going to die alone. Before you die, you can look at your life and say, 'I did good job, goodbye.' If not, it's 'Oh I was shallow and wasted my time.' There's nobody to praise you at that time. You have to be totally wise and not get dominated by your eyesight. What are your standards? Why do you have to do what everybody else does? Think about what's meaningful and worthwhile so you maintain quality in relationships. You discover what's real and important. The shallow stuff fades from your version quite quickly."

5) Every negative quality has an inverted positive quality. We are all fundamentally good. It is easy to spot other people's weaknesses and evaluate yourself advantageously over others and not admit your own shortcomings. This only widens the gap in personal relationships.

"It is not productive to be critical. It doesn't prove anything."

6) All people are brothers and sisters. Society has been conditioned to judge people according to race, religion, politics, age, class and appearance.

"Changing our awareness to qualities of the self and our basic connection as spiritual brothers and sisters liberates us from the physical pull or loathing and the prejudices that bring about social injustice and anti-social behavior."

7) Pain is mandatory, sorrow is optional.

"You have no choice regarding pain. Whether emotional or physical, it comes when it comes, but you do have a choice about how you react to it."

8) Whenever you point your finger at someone, there are always three fingers pointing back at you.

"This imagery gets people to pay attention themselves and allowing others to be whatever they are. It's none of your business."

9) If you keep on doing what you've always done, you'll keep on getting what you've always got.

"People have a tendency to think this is the way things have to be. They keep trying to do things in that

BACHELOR/J2

Organic Wine
Why It's So Good

The fundamental idea behind organic wine is that making wine from grapes grown without chemical fertilizers, weed killers, insecticides, and other synthetic chemicals is better both for the planet AND for the wine drinker because all of these things can damage the soil and the plant, and can end up in the wine as residue.

Many consumers are not aware of the fact that grapes are one of the most heavily sprayed crops around, and that when pesticides are sprayed on the grape skins to protect them from disease, they end up as residue in the wine (by being washed from the grapes as they are pressed or put in the vat).

In addition to contact pesticides, there are also systemic pesticides which penetrate the plant and end up in the grape pulp, and inevitably as residue in the wine. A number of these chemicals are of great concern because they are suspected carcinogens.

Organic farmers promote "biodiversity" and allow plants other than vines to grow in and around the vineyard. Biodiversity helps regulate the vineyard soil by attracting beneficial insects, spiders and predatory mites, as well as provide shelter and food (pollen, nectar and other bugs), and replaces the need for chemical pesticides or insecticides.

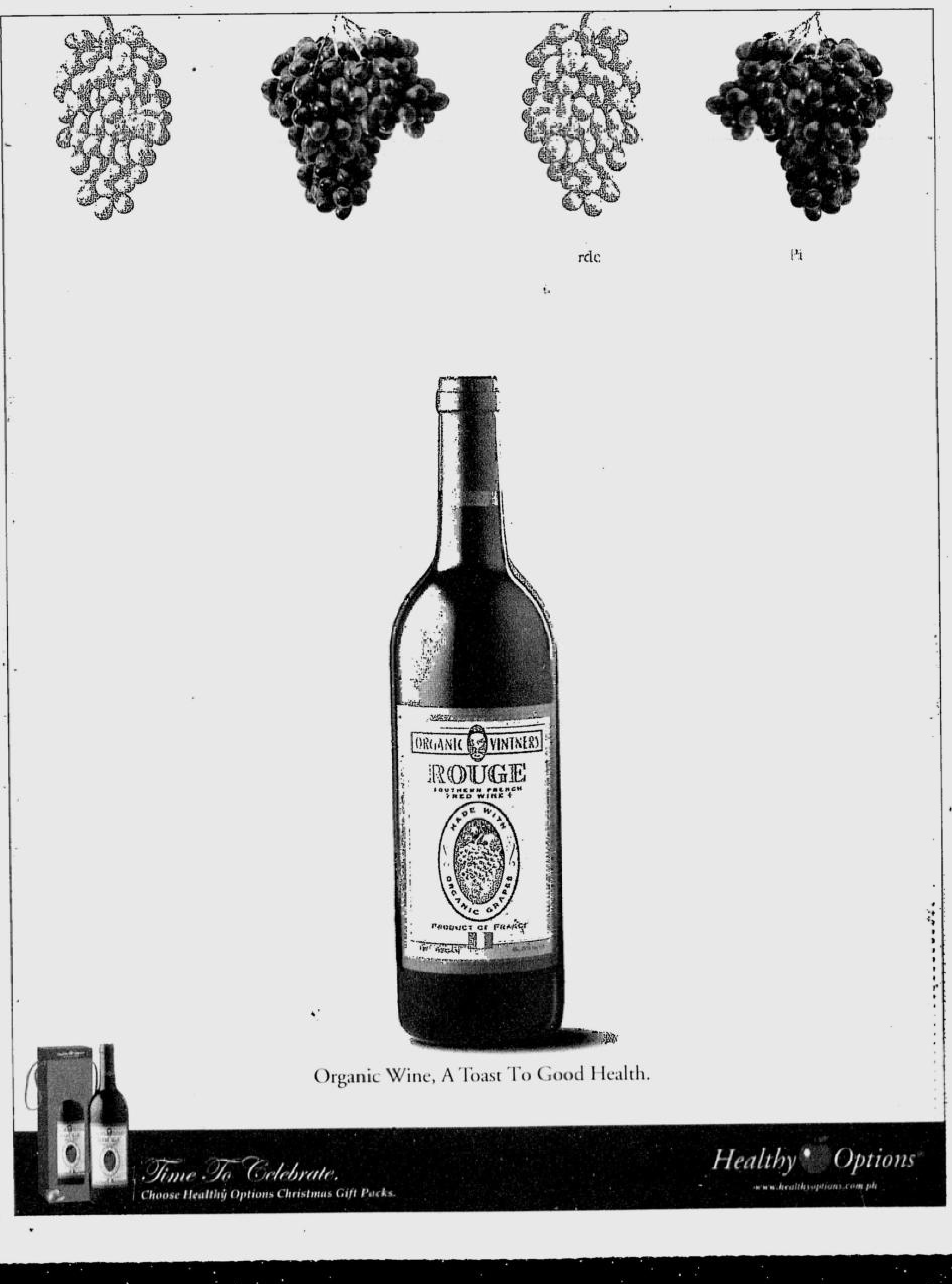
Organic Vegan Wines

Vegan wine is hard to get! Most wine uses animal products of one kind or another in its production, particularly gelatine (isinglass) or egg white in the "fining" of the wine (to make it clear rather than cloudy). Vegan wines either use non-animal product fining agents, such as kaolin (a clay) or don't filter ("fine") the wine using additives at all. This seems to be more common - look for "unfiltered"/"unfined" or "watch out for harmless sediments" as a possible sign of veganity!

Hand-crafted Organic Wines

"Hand-crafted" refers to wines made by small (i.e. boutique) wineries where the winemaker enjoys a close, "hands-on" relationship with the wine throughout the wine-making process.

Production is typically small, and a producer of hand-crafted varietals usually doesn't mind if they sell out of wine in a given year. In contrast, mass-market producers usually have stockholders to satisfy, and selling out of wine would present a business problem. Such wineries have been known to purchase bulk, unfinished wines, even from other countries, and blend, bottle, and sell it under their own label.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Jean-Henri Lhuillier looks forward

By Marge C. Enriquez

ENTREPRENEUR Jean-Henri Lhuillier believes wealth and success are reflected, not in the balance sheets or bank account, but in the deeds of sharing, allocating and nurturing projects, people and endeavors that one has faith in. He considers his company as just a conduit for resources meant to be used in meaningful ways. What he values most, he says, is knowing that what he does can help others.

"If I can make a difference in one person's life, that's success. If I can do that 10 or 20 times, that makes me feel even better," says the 35-year-old executive vice-president and general manager of PJ Lhuillier Inc., a company involved in pawnshops, retail (Oceanic 1911 and Furla), and the hotel and restaurant business.

Observers are cynical when Lhuillier waxes enthusiastic about his firm's philanthropy, sports patronage, and civic work. It seems hard to believe that people can feel vibrant and alive when they direct the flow of their wealth into soulful endeavors. Lhuillier's company hopes to invest in a better future for the country, whether through helping the barangay, supporting the search for Outstanding Policemen of the Philippines, or setting up a national basketball program.

"I feel genuinely happy. That's something to look forward to. Some people will say, 'You're doing that because you have the money. You do that for PR.' You guys can think whatever you want," says Lhuillier. For him, the purpose of money is to move things and promote causes that society cares about. Because of his managerial skills and committed philanthropy, he won the Aurelio Periquet Jr. Business Award in the under-40 age category.

But this entrepreneur and sports patron knows where the true heart of his endeavors rests

Scholarships and grants

Since 2001, the PJ Lhuillier Foundation Inc., of which he is president, has granted 120 scholarships. From this crop, 15 have graduated and four have joined his family's business. The foundation also launched the Create-A-Business Contest for graduating students of the University of the Philippines College of Business Administration. It rewards the most innovative business proposal with a capital worth P300,000 plus a P150,000 seed fund. Six corporations have emerged from this endeavor.

Lhuillier's involvement in sports has earned for him special citations as team manager of the men's national basketball team that won the gold in the 2003 Southeast Asian Games. Cebuana Lhuillier has also contributed to the growth of tennis in the country. He's again preparing the basketball team for next year's SEA Games. Meanwhile, he has been sponsoring tennis player TJ Tierro's training in the United States, Australia and Europe. He cites nearly a dozen basketball players who were his beneficiaries and who have since been playing in various Philippine Basketball Association teams.

"We've spotted many quality players in the sports tournaments that we've sponsored. Excellence in sports is an indication of how the country is doing. In my own little way, I'm trying to get the Philippines back on the world map," says Lhuillier.

He appears to be the proverbial chip off the old block in terms of manners, business savvy, and charities. "My dad is a great salesman," he says. "I'm more of an operator and manager. I'm also an entrepreneur."

Like father, grandfather

The young Jean-Henri looked up to his father Philippe, who ran the country's largest network of pawnshops, Cebuana Lhuillier Inc., which was started by his grandfather, Frenchman Henri Lhuillier. Philippe wanted his son to be independent, so he sent Jean-Henri to boarding school in Woodside Priory in Palo Alto, California. Jean-Henri devoted all his free time to sports, which became his passion and, later, his cause.

A risk-taker, he founded his own business, specializing in Italian marble and the fabrication of high-end kitchen and homes right after obtaining his Bachelor of Economics and Business Administration degree from St. Mary's College in Moraga, California. With 40 employees, Lhuillier Stoneworks covered most of northern California, and had a showroom in downtown San Francisco. Unfortunately, Jean-Henri could not sustain the business. He was shuttling between Manila and the West Coast and communicating only by fax.

"The business failed," he recalls. "I wasn't there. When the boss is not there, things happen. People can pocket money. At a young age, failure was hard to take but it eventually taught me how not to fail. It taught me that you have to know how things are run, and that you can't operate by remote control."

Mom-and-pop no more

His father urged him to come home and work in the family enterprise. On joining PJ Lhuillier Inc., Jean-Henri didn't have a title at first. He was stationed where certain departments needed help. When his father was appointed ambassador to Italy in 1998, Jean-Henri took over.

With his idealism, more than anything else, he brought changes to PJ Lhuillier Inc. "In setting up the company, I made sure there were parameters to every responsibility. No one should be a jack-of-all-trades in the way that, for many years, mom-and-pop businesses operated. The key word was 'professionalize' the company."

That meant flow charts, vision/mission statements, systems, reviews of strategic goals and constant checking of the bottom line. Although this approach looks good on paper, Lhuillier points out that it has its setbacks. "As you grow, committees are set up, execution takes longer. But you can mend by cutting down bureaucracy, which is what I'm trying to do," he says.

His success formula is academic: "A leader knows his limitations. So he delegates and relies on the right people, [but also] knows the limits of delegating. Three, he focuses. There are intangibles that [are incurred] and you can derail yourself. Make sure you stick to your core competence. If you don't know it, don't run it—and find a successor."

Lhuillier's best traits are being compassionate and being a good listener. This is why he frequently flies around the country to hear out his managers' issues. If there's a big problem, you've got to think quick. We are a big company trying to think compact," he says.

The core of the business is Cebuana Lhuillier, the Philippines' largest pawnshop network. He explains that, contrary to popular notion, it's not a business that squeezes money from the resource challenged. The pawnshop provides financial assistance. He says the Chamber of Pawnbrokers of the Philippines Inc. has been coming out with a public relations campaign to change the image of the industry.

He explains: "In Third World countries, access to funds is minimal—banks, friends, families, lending institutions. But to get money from the bank, you're talking eight pages of documents for small loans. Third World countries can't understand that. We're here to break the gap between us and those who don't have access to financial institutions. We're here to help you, not to take your money."

Branching out

Lhuillier adds that the business is extremely competitive and so shops try to outdo one another in offering high appraisal and low interest rates. Plus, he says, making profit by selling foreclosed items is rare. "People say we do well in hard times. That's not true. All businesses do better in good times."

The company believes in rewarding loyal patrons. It regularly holds a Customers' Day, during which regular clients of more than 10 years can pay for and claim back their pawned items without paying interest. Recently, Lhuillier says, Cebuana held a "huge" raffle promo and gave away motorcyles, jeepneys and cash. "Seeing the joy in our customers' faces was a rewarding experience."

On his own, Lhuillier has introduced to the corporation such other endeavors as insurance, money remittance, information technology, hotel and restaurant. Seeing Boracay's potential and value as a brand, for instance, he built Le Soleil de Boracay resort with friends Archie Rodriguez and Miguel Zubiri. They turned their passion for partying into business by opening Tequila Joe's restaurant-bar chain. Lhuillier is also a director of Global Restaurant Management, headed by Archie Rodriguez, which owns the local franchise of California Pizza Kitchen.

"SUCCESS is making a difference."

Indulging his penchant for sports, he also put money in Strike Zone, an entertainment complex on Roxas Boulevard, which operated only for two years. "I take calculated risks. I study the matter as much as possible, but businesses can still go wrong," he says. The complex offered sports that Filipinos favored, such as basketball, billiards, bowling, and even taekwondo. However the development of the Bay Area was slow and it did not create a market. His heart bled to see the employees lose their jobs. Fortunately, some were absorbed by PJ Lhuillier.

In the long run, Jean-Henri wants to see a continuing relationship not just between himself and his employees but also between his company and the next generation. He wants to make sure employees will be able to keep their jobs, and maybe pass them on to their kids, too.

That's the secret of Lhuillier's prosperity— keeping an open heart that links him not just to other people, but also to the feelings of completeness and abundance in his inner resources.

BOOK REVIEW

Road map to destiny

By Cherish Garcia-Hernandez, *Contributor*

There Are No Accidents:
Synchronicity and the Stories of Our Lives
By Robert H. Hopcke

YOU think of someone you have not seen in a long time and suddenly the person calls. This freaky phenomenon has happened to everyone at one time or another.

I have a good friend in New York whom I always bump into when I have not called him in a while. Once I was crossing the street and he was in a car passing that same intersection, and just recently, we found ourselves face to face in Soho on a busy Saturday afternoon. We joke about how we seem destined to get together every time I visit New York, whether I call or not.

The majority of us shrug off incidents like these as mere coincidences, or pleasant, if random, surprises. Others find deeper meaning in them and struggle to understand why they happen, what message they bring. Regardless of our differing interpretations, the experience is rarely discussed.

There is something romantic about the notion of predestined lives, especially when it comes to the chapters on love. Consider movies like "Only You," where Marissa Tomei flies halfway around the world in search of her "destiny," the elusive Damon Bradley (played by Robert Downey Jr.); or "Serendipity," where Kate Beckinsale's character looks for "signs" to tell her that John Cusack is the "one." In the end "Only You" tells us that destiny is what you make it, while "Serendipity" holds on to the idealistic notion that if someone is your destiny, you will end up together. No wonder "Serendipity" was a bigger hit.

Psychotherapist says our lives are 'organized, consciously and unconsciously, the way a story is–with coherence, a direction, and a reason'

Beyond consciousness

I have to admit that, for all my pragmatism, I have always been a sucker for the latter school of thought. Heck, I even try to find meaning in my dreams. So when I came across Robert H. Hopcke's bestseller in an obscure hippy bookstore, I grabbed it, hoping to find some clues to my destiny.

Hopcke is the director of the Center for Symbolic Studies in Tillson, NY, which follows Jungian-oriented psychotherapy. This means the method of treatment is based on the teachings of Swiss physician Carl Gustav Jung, former student of Sigmund Freud, who believed that much of the brain's functions are beyond the range of consciousness.

In the book, Hopcke zeroes in on synchronicity, by way of demonstrating that inner emotions, intuitions, and desires tangibly affect the outside world of relationships, work, and success.

He says that coincidences take place for us to better understand the soul and read the map of its destiny. Okay, that sounds a little too mystical, like it belongs up there with astral travel. But the stories of people's actual encounters with fate are irresistible—for instance, a woman set up on a blind date with the same man two years apart on two different coasts; and someone who receives an unexpected gift after repeatedly dreaming about that exact thing.

Hopcke explains that synchronistic events have symbolic and emotional levels of meaning that serve to remind people of our ability to feel and our ability to imagine. Supposedly, these two aspects of our being have been misplaced as a result of our focusing on rationality. He says the truth is that "our lives are organized, consciously and unconsciously, the way a story is, with coherence, a direction, and a reason for being."

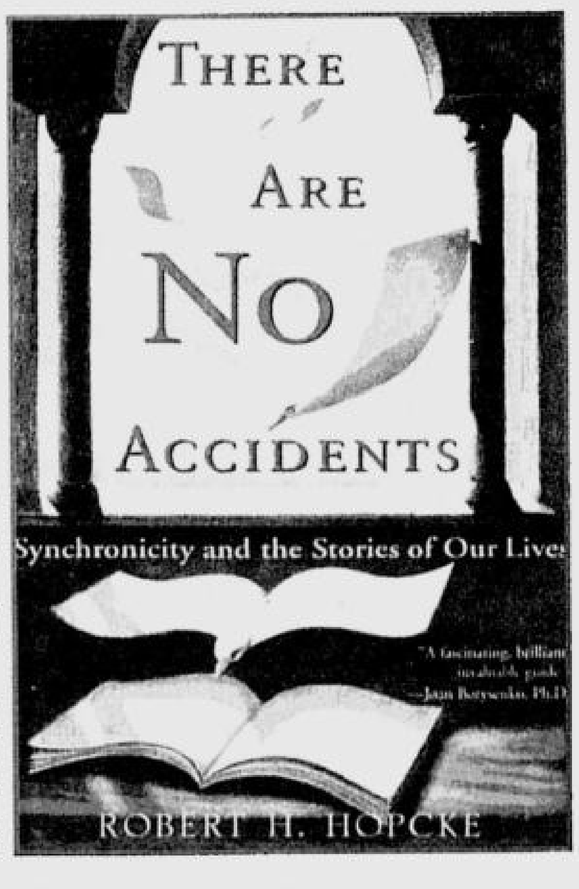
Seeing the signs

What he means is that, essentially, everything happens for a reason. And if we manage to see the so-called signs, we will find direction in our lives. The author even goes as far as exploring dreams—how they are really extrasensory experiences (tapping into the clairvoyant in us)—as well as that all-too-familiar déjà vu.

While the subject is fascinating and the numerous stories absorbing, sometimes even mind-boggling, Hopcke's book fails to give me concrete answers. Having gathered so many similar stories, he then rambles on, in very abstract explanations. His thoughts are not coherent, and his premise is lost halfway through the book. The result is a huge lack of substance, which is very disappointing for a book that sets up to tackle a very valid and mysterious aspect of our lives.

Overall, I think that Hopcke's theories are thought-provoking and worth exploring. However, finding too much meaning in everything that happens to us can actually derail us from moving forward. I love the notion that we all have a soul mate lurking somewhere, and that a handful of us are lucky enough to follow the signs that lead to him or her. But I don't think that one should drastically alter their lives because of a few "signs."

Remember those "Choose Your Own Adventure" books we read as kids, where we decided the fate of the hero ourselves? Well, I think life is more like that. There is more than one path for us and we weave our own stories as we make choices when we cross those forks in the road.



ONLY the upbeat atmosphere has not changed.

Face lift for a salon

CELEBRITY hairdresser and businessman Ricky Reyes is constantly upgrading his salons.

Recently the Ricky Reyes Salon in Megamall Building B got a facelift. The owner eschewed unfashionable bright lights, loud colors, wrought-iron furnishing and pop music and transformed the salon using wood, glass and porcelain, and calming blue lighting. The glass wall with a water curtain separates the spa which offers hair treatments.

Staffers are clad in all-black uniforms, like their counterparts in European salons, while the manager is in a coat and tie to project a professional, polished look.

What hasn't changed is the upbeat atmosphere, especially with the blow-ups of signature models Gloria Romero and Albert Martinez accompanied by the unforgettable tagline, *"Lolah...ang ganda-ganda, divahh?"*

The salon is aspirational in its presentation, with an extensive menu of services offered at affordable rates. Asked about formulas used for hair rebonding, the attentive staffer replies in Tagalog, "Ma'm, it's imported. We don't know the brand because everything is written in Chinese."

Nonetheless, the services deliver what they promise—whether it's improving circulation in the scalp, giving hair more shine, or a makeover.

Classical music wafts in the air and the client is hypnotized by the sound of water gushing from the curtain wall. Declares the proud owner: "A Ricky Reyes salon is not just a beauty parlor—it offers a total salon experience."

Oooh, divahh?

Bachelor of Values ...

From page J1

way. You have to beat people in order to obey them. They don't follow, you beat them a bit harder. So you keep on doing that, you're never going to get different results. To make them do what you want, you have to find a completely different strategy that requires understanding, courage, detachment, wisdom and the power of spirituality."

10) It is happening, but it's not happening to me. Do I hold up or hold out?

"If your officemates or colleagues are ganging up on you, the normal reaction is to be bewildered and ask, why are they doing this? On the other hand, if you say people are ganging up, and you're not taking it in—you're being a detached observer— then you are in a much stronger position. If they are ganging up against you, so what?"

Patrician home for the 'pan de sal'

By Teddy Montelibano
Contributor

PAN DE SAL, the traditional Filipino bread staple, has found a patrician home in Tostada, a handsome establishment styled as an upper-class Filipino bakery and café, and which was put up by a group of women-friends at Blue Wave Mall along Macapagal Avenue in Pasay City.

Tostada is a veritable bread heaven, with over a dozen other kinds of breads sharing top billing with such *pan de sal* varieties as the small and firm *pan de sal* Baliwag, pan de coco with a sweet coco center, Spanish bread, and the so-called **"chismis,"** which is a small soft bread topped with cheese.

Likewise in large twine bread baskets set on shelves against walls—which run from the ground up to the second floor—are the specialty breads *"muy bien,"* generously sprinkled with *queso de bola*; the delicious flat and crispy **carta de tostada**; bread loaves including Tostada's no-sugar, no-fat wheat loaf. The top of the counters are lined with tall glass containers filled with *grissini*, some of the most scrumptious, melt-in-the-mouth garlic sticks ever concocted.

Chef/restaurateur Gene Gonzalez—the only Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) awardee for culinary art in the country to date—who helped develop the menu, says the concept for the establishment is operations manager Josie Lagman's. He relates that Lagman, one of the owners, approached him and expressed her desire for "a Filipino bakery where good, old-style *pan de sal* and good *ensaymada* could be resurrected, and where we could also come up with new concept breads."

Place for feasts

These, Lagman and partners got, and are now offering to people who have gone beyond just peering through Tostada's glass walls and have stepped in to get their hands on the goodies.

Customers can see the bakers at work on the ground floor. Those who seek full meals are directed to the 60-seat dining room on the second floor. Gonzalez's menu is more suitable for the patrons here.

Done by Ivy and Cynthia Almario of the world-class interior design studio, Atelier Almario, the entire establishment features dark brown wooden bistro chairs, diffused drop lamps over banquettes upholstered in cool, light lime green. These are set against clean polished white painted walls hung with fine original oil paintings of Philippine fruits.

The spacious Filipino-style dining room is conducive to feasting on such delectable fare as *puto caramba*, which is shrimp *pinipig* and squash fritters with a vinegar dip; *pinsecs lasap*, or crisp wontons of lightly-smoked mackerel with cilantro sauce; *ditak ditak* , a little of everything including dried prawns, *camote* chips, peanuts, cashews in a tamarind glaze.

Sulipeña tradition

Explaining the café menu, Gonzalez said he and the owners meant to strike a balance between "traditional and creative Philippine cuisine." Thus, for instance, there is *kare-kare* "which is so stereotypical, [except that] Tostada's *kare-kare* is done in the Sulipeña style."

Gonzalez is referring to the old town of Sulipan, once a rich place in Pampanga where Spanish galleons were dry-docked and repaired in the 19th century. The town was famed for its cooks, who were very particular about cooking in a certain manner, and who used only the best ingredients. Gonzalez's forebears, like those of many other old families in the province, come from Sulipan. He is a great-grandson of Cayetano Arnedo's, whose family chefs were the ones who put together the French cuisine-inspired inaugural banquet of the 1st Philippine Republic on September 29, 1898.

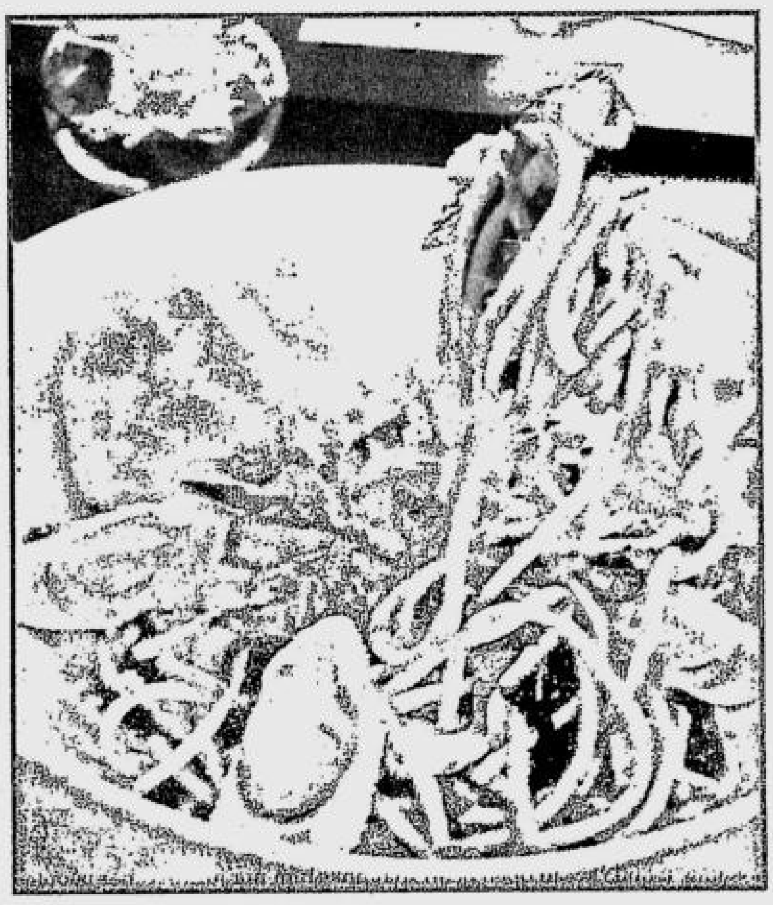
A bread haven, Tostada is also a showcase for specialty Pampango dishes

The Sulipan tradition for meticulously cooking even the most common dishes, often with a creative tweak, lives on with Gonzales. It is evident in Tostada's *suam na mais sa tulya,*, corn grits soup with mussels; *sinuglaw*, fresh tuna with grilled pork belly; *lagat na lamang dagat* , mixed seafood with coco cream and yellow ginger; and *tostada daing na bangus*, choice milkfish center cut piled with toasted garlic bits.

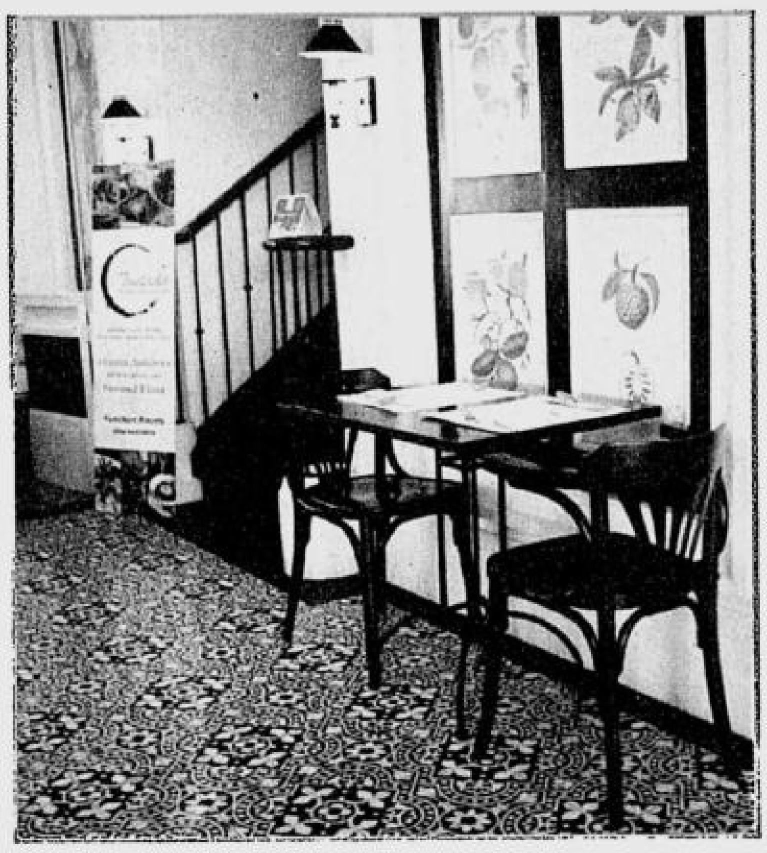
It especially shines in the café's version of the terrifically lip-smacking *menudo Sulipeña*, a sublime Filipino-Spanish dish of slowly simmered oxtail tomato stew with *morcilla chorizos* and *garbanzos* (chick peas).

This item alone, eaten with bamboo rice—somewhat sticky rice spiked with bamboo shafts and two kinds of mushroom—makes the trip to this quite out-of-the-way bakery-cum-Filipino café worth the time and effort.

Tostada Filipino Bakery & Café, is located Unit J, Blue Wave Mall, Diosdado Macapagal Avenue, Pasay City. Call 832-9321 or 832-9324.



CARBO LOADING. Tostada's own version of local spaghetti, with hefty pan de sal



PINOY MODERN. Designer Ivy Almario had machuca tiles custom-made in dramatic black and white for Tostada's flooring. The Vienna Brentwood bistro chairs and botanical prints of local plants and fruits add a native touch.

CRISP vegetable spring rolls with three kinds of mushroom fillings

Capturing the light

... with 'intelligent' makeup that is visible only when you want it to be

JADED about makeup techniques?

The Japanese have a way of improving what's already there. Shiseido's creative director Tom Pecheux gives a twist to this season's statement: bold eye makeup that comes from depth of color. The tones are inspired by precious stones and minerals.

That forecast may not be anything new for makeup junkies, since other brands in the past fall seasons have culled their colors from the earth. Shiseido's colors are lighter and can be used for highlighters and blushers.

Says Pecheux in a press statement: "Choosing a single, chromatic base creates a double advantage: it facilitates layering and instantly lights up the look."

For a natural finish, Pecheux prescribes the cool Pink Pearl, a translucent pink for highlight, and Ruby Dazzle for contour. For a glamorous look, he recommends the warmer shades of Goldburst, a subtle golden yellow for highlight, and Enchanted bronze for a dramatic impression. A variation is Summershell, which goes with Fire Opal or Lilac Luster. Lip color should enhance eye makeup, he says, pointing to rose lips for a natural look, and dramatic red for glamour.

Manila launch

Shiseido makeup artist Hiroyuki Nemoto was in Manila to launch the new collection. He gave ÉLAN some quick tips to correct some bad makeup habits. Foremost, when applying liquid foundation, he said, don't just dot around the face and streak it all over the face like painting over.

- Before applying on the face, place a few drops on the back of the hand. Replenish a little at the time.
- Use your fingers and a flat concealer brush instead of a sponge. The former create a more natural look and also uses up less foundation. A sponge can make foundation look heavy and also uses more of it.
- Dot on the most prominent areas—middle of the forehead, cheekbones, nose—to form a pyramid. Spread from the middle and outward by tapping the fingers lightly in a circular motion.
- A sponge can be used to even out the foundation around the hairline and jaw line.

To create depth, use a highlighter on the T-zone and a bronzer for the contours.

Eye wonders

For the eyebrows, whether you are using a pencil or powder, always start from the middle of the brow, where the arch is, and stroke evenly to the outer corner of the eye. Fill in the rest of the brow, following the direction of the hair.

To avoid messy eye makeup, apply loose powder under the eyes and on the cheeks so that if excess eye shadow falls, you can just brush it off after you finish with the makeup.

Before applying liquid eye liner, Nemoto suggested eye-pencilling the lash line first, and then use that as guide.

Set the makeup with Enriched Loose Powder. The technique is to dab in tiny doses, and very lightly, around the face. Good makeup consists of the imperceptible blend of colors and balance of light and shadow on the face.

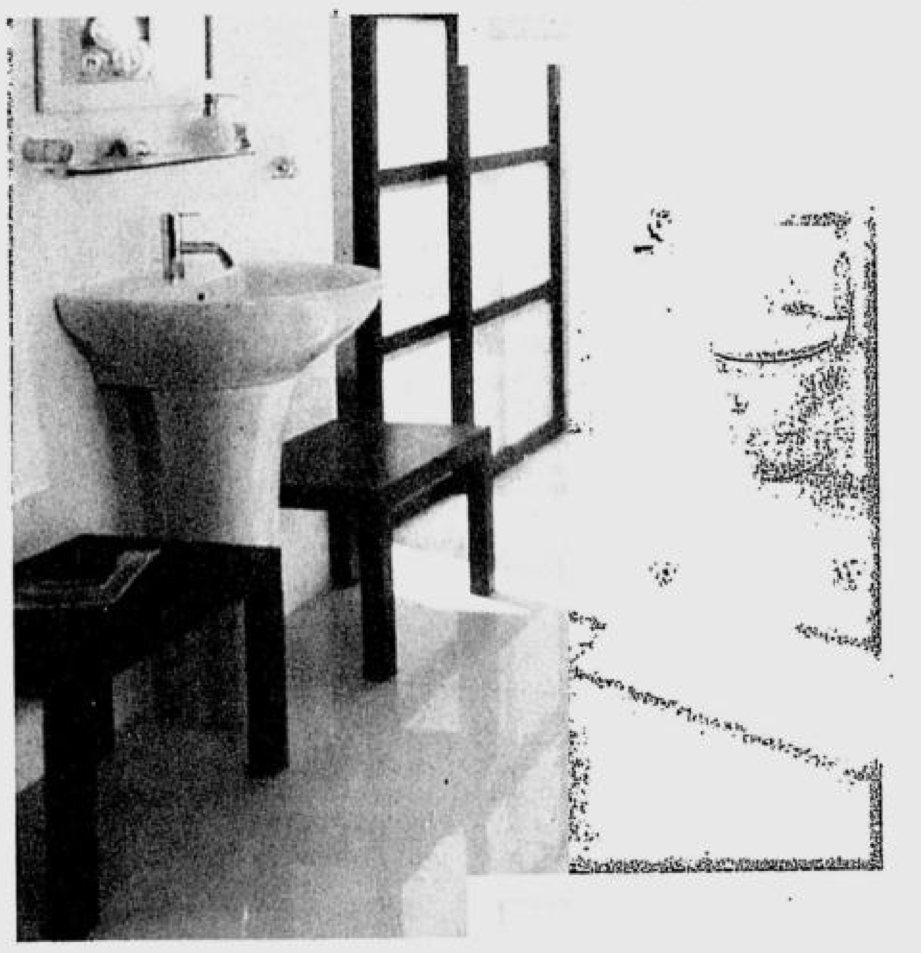
Brighter sheen

Shiseido The Makeup boasts of its Advanced Luminous Technology, which directs the light so that the facial contours are enhanced. It also adds light, mirrored from the color pigments, for a brighter sheen. Shiseido has likewise formulated Full Saturated Color Powder, which facilitates the bounce of light in many directions. The result is perfect color instead of a dull finish.

When light recoils, colors seem to travel varying distances: warm colors look more intimate, dark colors distant. The 3-D Powder imitates these illusions so that the colors look more natural, blending effortlessly instead of appearing like a blotch of color on the face.

Today, makeup is also expected to have skin-care benefits. The Hydro-Wrap Vitalizing DE reloads moisture around the eyes, prevents the moisture from escaping, and enables the skin to absorb eye shadow. The result is eye shadow texture that is smooth and fresh, and stays on all day.

In a market saturated with volumizing mascaras, Shiseido's Lasting Lift lays claim to an edge over competitors. Lasting Lift Mascara contains an exclusive formula, the Air Volume Powder, which weighs only a fraction of the regular pigment. It is created by heating resin with liquid gas until it expands and evaporates, thus making the mascara lightweight. Lashes won't get weighed down over time. The nylon brush has tiny but dense bristles that easily absorb the mascara liquid and enables even coating of the lashes. The brush hairs sway each lash distinctly for more length.



Le Blanc
SERIES

PURE BEAUTY • PRICELESS ELEGANCE

AVAILABLE AT NCR: ACE Hardware-Fairview 935-0714 • ACG Builders 717-0419 to 20 • ALVER Trading 784-2049 • APM Builders 939-0889 • Circle D 725-3561 • D-Square Plumbing 741-2381 • Go Soc & Sons 361-0407 • GS Home 454-1151 • Home Pro Finishing 364-0485 • Homewise 727-7296 • MacBuild 366-9133 • MC Home Builders Depot 893-3070 • MC Home Depot 636-6945 • MC Home Depot-The Fort 815-4759 • Ortigas Home Depot 683-0823 • Prima Mercantile 712-2415 • Ray Marketing 641-6196 • TASCO Comm. 911-8891 • UDISCO 844-8347 • Unisia Merchandising 733-7347 • Wilcon Builder's Depot 772-0311 • Wilcon Builders 921-3391 • N-LUZON: ACE Hardware-Pampanga (045) 961-6849 • Centro Lumber (072) 888-2326 • Edwardo Tan Hardware (075) 522-0797 • Filco Merchandising (075) 522-1772 • Hilcrest Builders (045) 331-2402 • King's Lumber (045) 961-3401 • NCR Construction (045) 323-4401 • New Agoo Cement (075) 521-0077 • New City Lumber (044) 463-0431 • New Northcoast Trading (077) 772-1860 • Pines Homes (074) 442-3677 • RAI Strong Builders (078) 652-2614 • V-KY Construction Trading (047) 224-8574 • Yakal Lumber (077) 742-8405 • S-LUZON: Center Point Builders (049) 821-0855 • Ceramic Plus, Inc. (043) 778-4130 • Kelly Hardware (046) 417-0722 • Legaspi City Enterprise (052) 480-6299 • Lourbel Construction (052) 820-3327 • Mancion Haus (043) 981-3567 • Midtown Sales (048) 433-2056 • Prima Builders Center (043) 288-4449 • Quality Ceramics (042) 373-0882 • VISAYAS: Ava Construction (034) 433-0203 • Bacolod Builders (034) 434-2811 • Bohol Electronics (038) 411-2867 • Build It! DIY Shop (032) 422-9461 • Cebu Atlantic (032) 261-4692 • Cebu Bionic (032) 262-2851 • Ceramic Home (034) 434-6235 • Cosmic Marketing (053) 325-6165 • Globe Home (032) 343-7582 • Multi L & A (033) 336-3182 • Negros Building Supplies (035) 226-6516 • North & South (032) 255-7325 • Pacific Home Depot (034) 433-3291 • Steel + Stone (032) 412-7285 to 87 • MINDANAO: Building Resources (088) 521-3535 • Butuan Globe (085) 225-2289 • Cagayan Universal Hardware (088) 856-8145 • Dadiangas Buildex (083) 301-8521 • Dadiangas Glass (083) 552-2070 • Davao Import (082) 221-3311 • De Oro Pacific (088) 856-1658 • GS Supreme (085) 552-2761 • Jewpre (088) 2271-2066 • M-M Marble (082) 221-1749 • Mega Home Finishing (065) 212-5632 • Nema Electrical (063) 221-2865 • SKS Interiors (082) 221-3382 • Wilcon Builder's-Davao (082) 297-2143

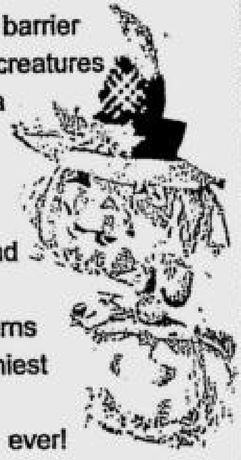
TOTO

SIAM MARIWASA TOTO, INC.
B/F ACE Building
101-103 Thailand (Formerly Roda St.) Cor. Dela Rosa Streets
Legaspi Village Makati City 1229, Philippines
Tel. No. 751-8080 Fax Nos.: 750-7807 or 751-8893
Factory: Barangay San Antonio, Sto. Tomas, Batangas, Philippines
Tel. No. (043) 778-2011 Fax No. (043) 778-2002

ISO 9001 : 2000

A harvest of fun and magic

at Toy Kingdom's month-long Halloween event



Fun-tasy breaks the imagination barrier as magical creatures (plus quite a number of spooky favorites) gather 'round brightly lit jack-o-lanterns for the fun-niest Halloween celebration ever!

Halloween Fun

Starts October 1

An awesome line-up of activities await shoppers of all ages, but most specially the kiddies as Toy Kingdom marks another month-long Halloween celebration.

Topping the programme of events is the WIN A TOY SHOPPING SPREE promotion. Over P200,000 worth of toys at stake! Every P500 single receipt purchase within October 1 to 31 earns shopper the chance to win.

Double your chances of winning when you use your SM Advantage Card

Enchanted Party

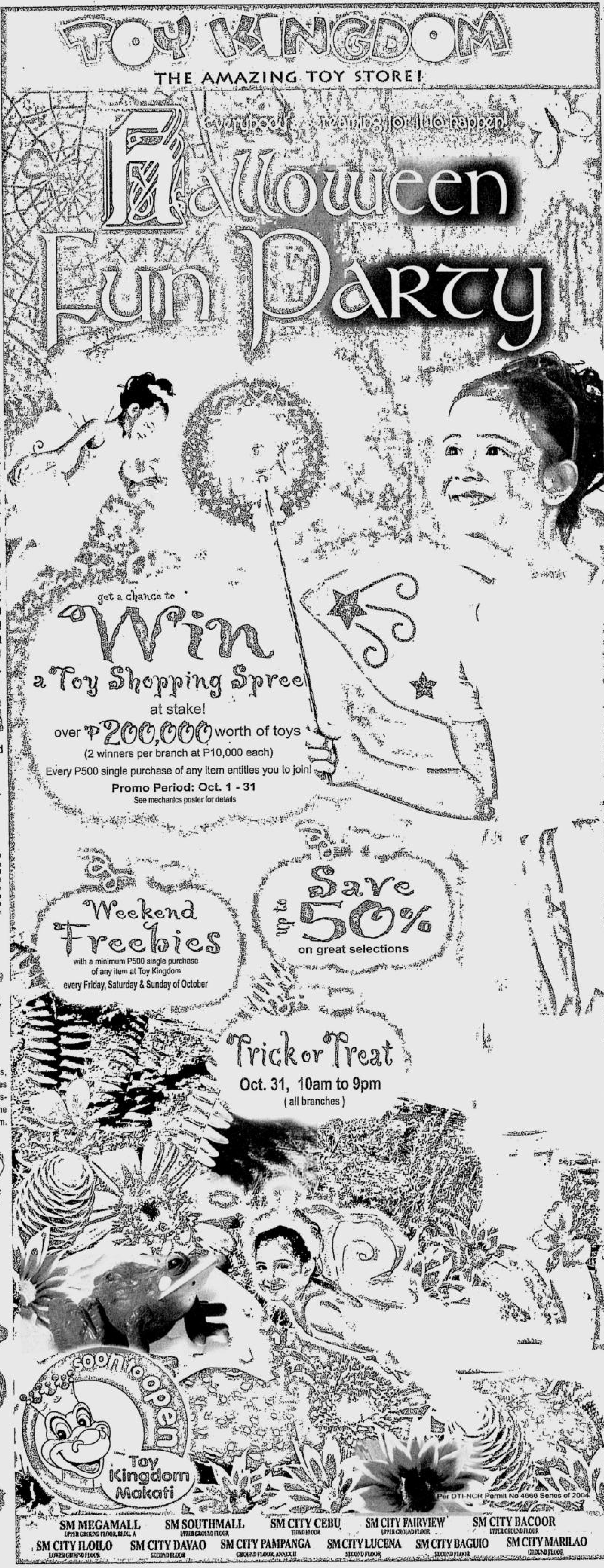
This little girl is wearing one of several halloween costumes available at Toy Kingdom

Lovely fairies with dainty wings, with sparkling and glowing wands, elves and pixies and golden butterflies- all the residents of fairyland come to life to join you at Toy Kingdom.

Fairy costume with accessories

Fairy wings

Head bands



TOY KINGDOM

THE AMAZING TOY STORE!

everybody's waiting for it to happen!

Halloween Fun Party

get a chance to

Win

a Toy Shopping Spree

at stake!

over ₱200,000 worth of toys

(2 winners per branch at P10,000 each)

Every P500 single purchase of any item entitles you to join!

Promo Period: Oct. 1 - 31

See mechanics poster for details

Weekend Freebies

with a minimum P500 single purchase of any item at Toy Kingdom

every Friday, Saturday & Sunday of October

Save up to 50%

on great selections

Trick or Treat

Oct. 31, 10am to 9pm

(all branches)

soon to open

Toy Kingdom Makati

Per DTI-NCR Permit No 4668 Series of 2004

SM MEGAMALL
UPPER GROUND FLOOR, BLDG. A

SM SOUTHMALL
UPPER GROUND FLOOR

SM CITY CEBU
THIRD FLOOR

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
UPPER GROUND FLOOR

SM CITY BACOOR
UPPER GROUND FLOOR

SM CITY ILOILO
LOWER GROUND FLOOR

SM CITY DAVAO
SECOND FLOOR

SM CITY PAMPANGA
GROUND FLOOR, ANNEX II

SM CITY LUCENA
SECOND FLOOR

SM CITY BAGUIO
SECOND FLOOR

SM CITY MARILAO
GROUND FLOOR

Bewitching Creatures

Life-size Halloween Witches

And what about the brooms and masks and bats and all that spooky stuff Halloween is usually made of ? Well, Toy Kingdom's got 'em too. Just come over and take your horrific pick. All for the fun of it.

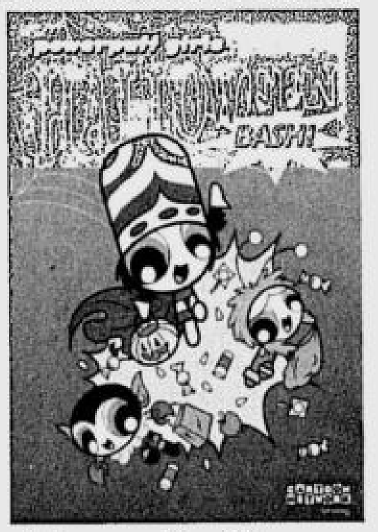
Halloween Adult Masks

OGRE Rubber Gloves

Witch Hats

Meet the Heroines

Long before the clock strikes twelve, get together with the Power Puff Girls. Bubbles, Buttercup and Blossom will be around to regale you with their fabulous exploits in Pufflandia.



HALLOWEEN BASH!

Meet & Greet

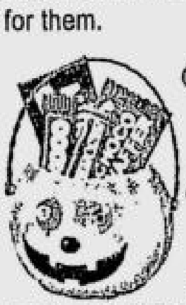
The Powerpuff Girls
Oct. 29, TK Southmall
Oct. 30, TK Megamall
1pm - 2:30pm - 4pm

Free Photo Op

For every purchase of any Powerpuff Girls item. Just don't forget to bring your own camera!
Oct. 29, TK Southmall
Oct. 30, TK Megamall

Weekend Freebies

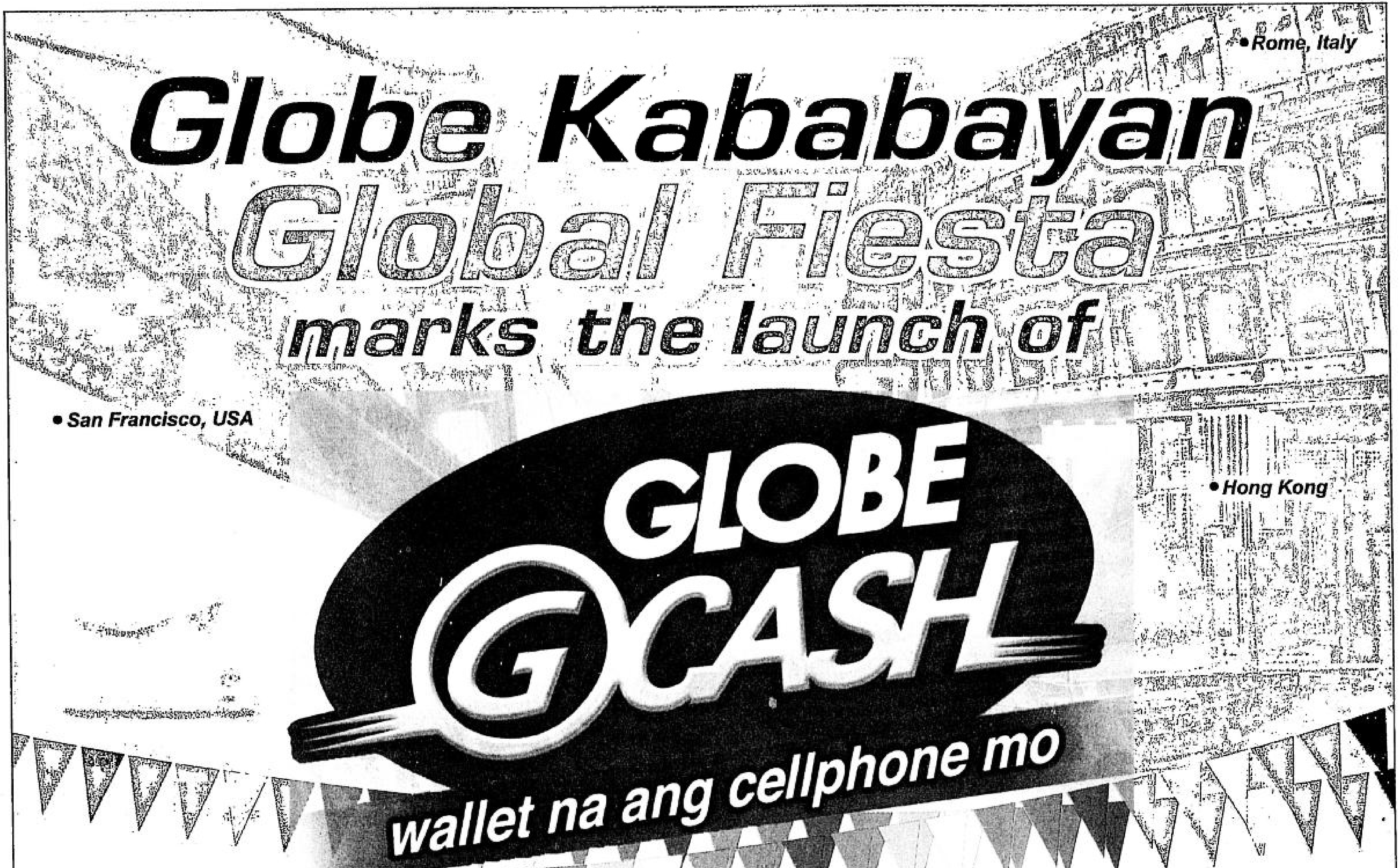
Weekend shoppers at the most amazing toy shop in town will be pleasantly surprised with take home freebies in store for them.



Trick or Treat

But the fun doesn't stop there, kids! For what's a Halloween without the traditional trick or treat? So come on over this October to Toy Kingdom and grab these tantalizing tricks and terrific treats that will surely come your way!

Globe Kababayan Global Fiesta marks the launch of



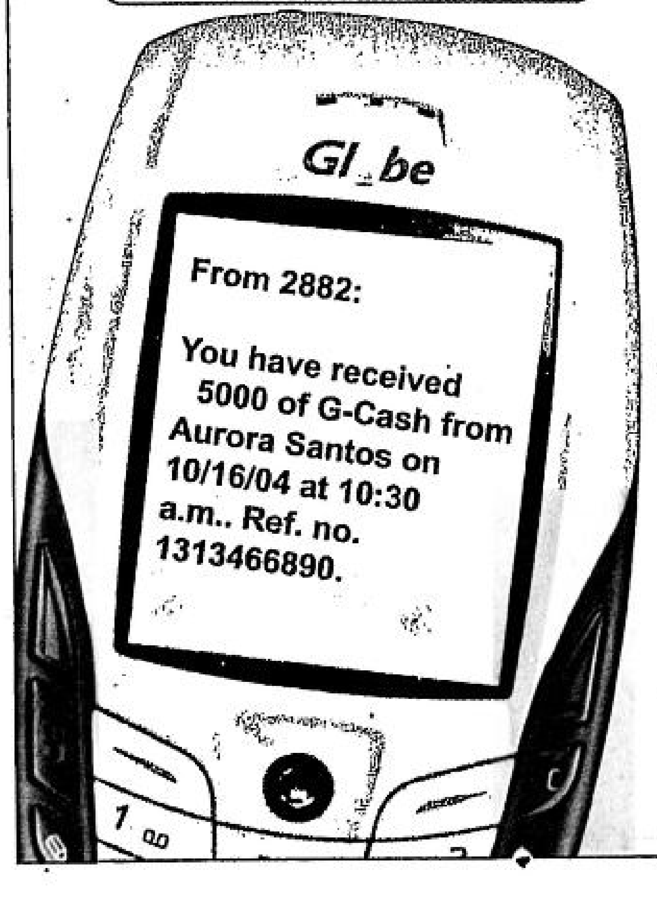
GLOBE G CASH

wallet na ang cellphone mo

OFWs in Rome enjoy an entertaining variety show at the courtyard of the Sentro Filipino.

OFWs gathered at the Sentro Filipino in Rome for the *Globe Kababayan* Global Fiesta.

A Filipina OFW makes a transaction at the World Wide House in Central Hong Kong.



From 2882:

You have received 5000 of G-Cash from Aurora Santos on 10/16/04 at 10:30 a.m.. Ref. no. 1313466890.

Filipinos are much admired abroad for being very hard working. In fact, Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) would often take as much as two or three jobs at the same time in order to provide their families back home with a comfortable life, as well as to fill in the hours to keep the feeling of homesickness at bay. But despite this fact, Filipinos abroad still long for things and activities that will keep them culturally and emotionally connected to their homeland.

Globe Kababayan, the newest mobile service campaign for OFWs by innovations leader Globe Telecom, knows that Filipinos shouldn't live to just work alone. They need to be able to interact in order to reach a healthy balance between work and social life. For that reason *Globe Kababayan* offers OFWs a host of mobile services that fulfill their need to communicate and socialize.

In the past few months, *Globe Kababayan* has launched major communication breakthroughs for the benefit of the OFWs and their families in the Philippines. This includes the introduction of AutoloadMAX in Hong Kong and Singapore, as well as the award winning Share-A-Load service via telco partners in Japan and Hong Kong.

G-Cash wallet na ang cellphone mo!

Now, *Globe Kababayan* marks another milestone with the launch of G-Cash, a brand new service that allows OFWs to conveniently send remittances safely and swiftly to families and loved ones who are subscribers of Globe Handyphone and Touch Mobile through a mobile wallet in their cellphones.

To celebrate the launch of this valuable service, *Globe Kababayan* recently held a Global Fiesta for the OFWs in three continents, namely, Asia, Europe and North America. These simultaneous festivities gave OFWs in Hong Kong, Rome and San Francisco a chance to acquaint themselves with the exciting possibilities offered to them by G-Cash, while also bringing them a taste of the lively town fiestas back home. And *Globe Kababayan* certainly did not disappoint them.

A Global Fiesta for our beloved Pinoys overseas

Filipinos packed a venue in *Tsuen Wan*, New Territories to revel in a grand *Globe Kababayan* celebration of *Pinoy* culture in a *Globe Kababayan* event hosted by popular Hong Kong-based Filipino radio personalities Michael Vincent and Tita Kerry. Filipino band Website entertained the audience as they sang current and classic OPM favorites. The event was given a touch of star power with a surprise visit from Willie Revillame and Randy Santiago. The audience sang and danced along to the catchy lyrics and beats of Revillame's *Pito-pito* and others. Santiago on the other hand took the audience on a nostalgic music trip with his hits which included *Hindi Magbabago, Babaero,* and *Paikot-ikot.* The audience was especially thrilled playing *Ready Set... Globe!,* a game inspired by the popular *Pera o Bayong.* Winner Amy Armada took home HK$500, while Perlita Tumawang and Yeddah Gargantel each received P3,000 worth of Globe Prepaid call cards for winning the raffle contest.

The courtyard of the *Sentro Filipino* in central Rome was the beautiful setting of the European leg of the *Globe Kababayan* Global Fiesta. Our *kababayans* there braved the cold Italian weather to catch the performance of their very own Filipina diva, Miles San Jose. Often compared to Jennifer Lopez, she held the audience's attention with her extra-ordinary soulful voice and her collection of songs ranging from funky RnB tunes to sentimental love songs. Further heating up the air was an RnB dance number performed by *Pinoy Sexy Teenagers.* Games such as *Ocho-ocho* for youngsters, *Pamela Wan* and *Ready Set ...Globe!* also proved to be crowd favorites. In fact, during the *Ocho-ocho* and *Pamela Wan* games, everybody in the audience —even nuns and priests found themselves dancing to the popular tunes! Winners of *Ocho-ocho* were youngsters Romila De Gala, BJ Bark Barrin and Nethlen Naranjo, while Elvie Gamboa bagged first prize for dancing *Pamela Wan.*

On the other side of the world, Filipinos in San Francisco were treated by *Globe* Kababayan to a *Masskara*-themed Global Fiesta. They were joined in the fun festivities by Fil-Am actress Kaye Abad who joined them for a *Pinoy salu-salo* complete with well-loved Filipino dishes like *adobo, pancit canton, kare-kare, barbecue, lumpiang ubod* among others.

Whether it's through its innovative host of services or relevant, fun-filled events that remind them of home, *Globe Kababayan* strives for ways to link the global Pinoy to their families, loved ones and friends all the time. More so with its newest innovation, G-Cash which gives Pinoys overseas a safe, reliable and convenient means of sending money to their families back home.

Willie Revillame and Randy Santiago have some fun onstage with contestants at the *Globe Kababayan* Global Fiesta in Hong Kong.

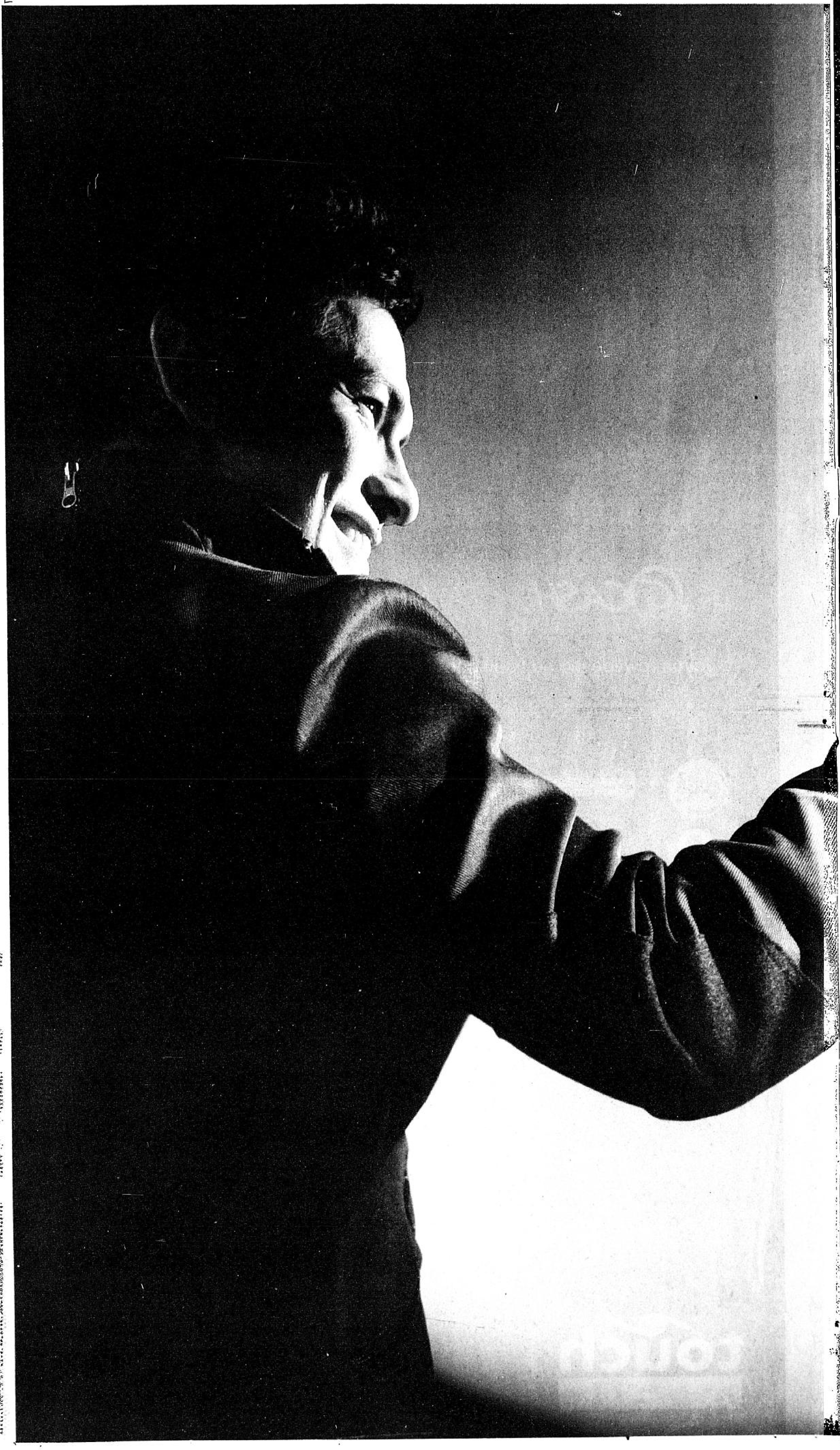
The members of the Church of the Annunciation Filipino Catholic Group in Hong Kong.

Popular actress Kaye Abad exchanges mobile numbers with a fan in San Francisco.

Kaye Abad joins a traditional Pinoy *salu-salo* in San Franscisco.

Globe Kababayan

MOBILE SERVICES PARA SA OFW



Paano kung ang wallet mo

nasa cellphone na?

Think it's possible?

INTRO

G CASH PAYMENTS

Ngayon, pwede mo na i-text ang bayad mo sa mga restaurants, tindahan, at sinehan!

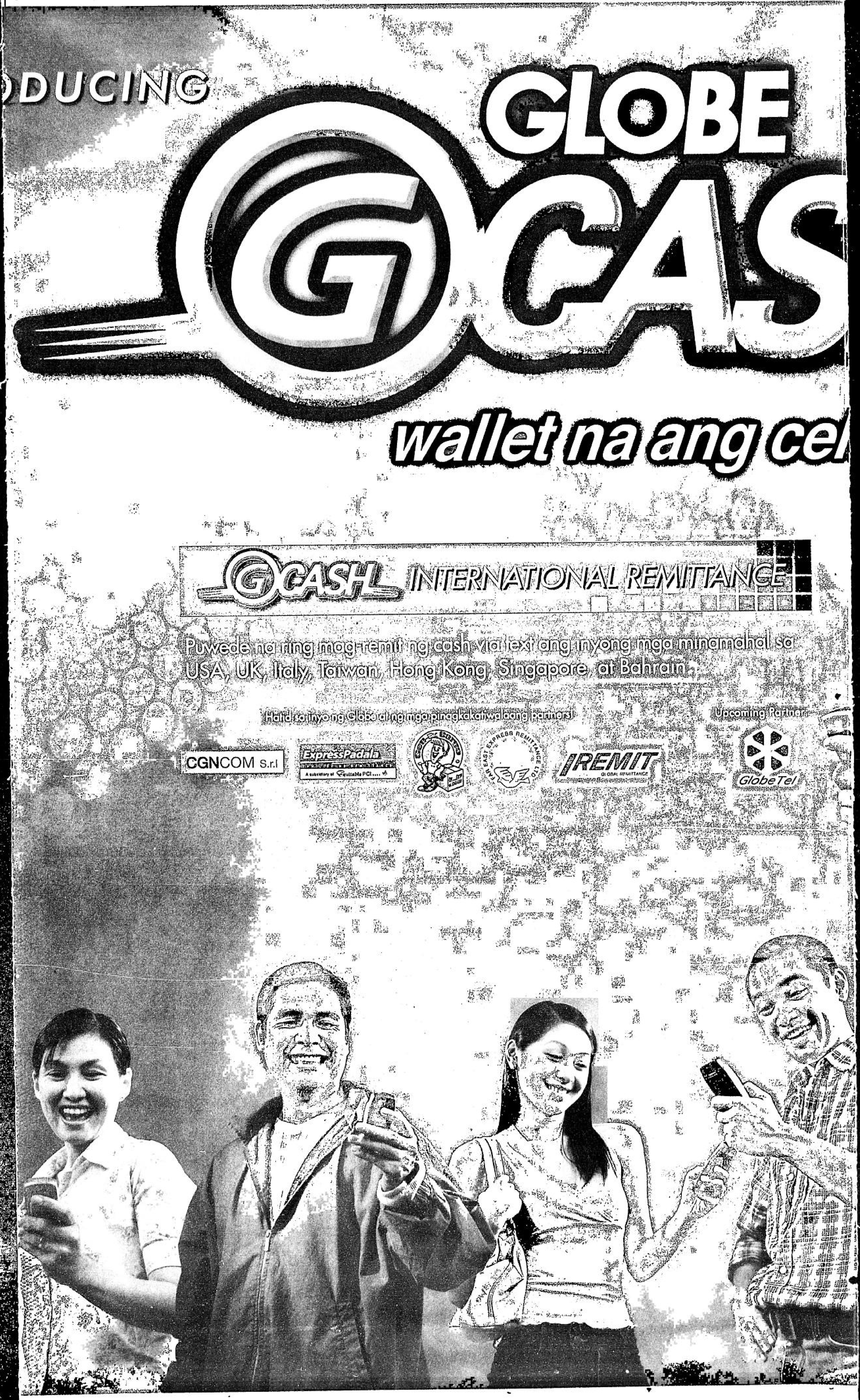
Selected outlets now accepting G-CASH payments:

Burger King
e-2-door.com
estore exchange
Max's 7-9000
mercury drug NAKASISIGURO GAMOT AY LAGING BAGO
Metro
National Book Store
SuperFerry
sureseats.com

Upcoming Partners:

ABS-CBN INTERACTIVE
Remit Mobile Micro Money Transfer

touch mobile



DUCING

GLOBE GCAS

wallet na ang cel

GCASH INTERNATIONAL REMITTANCE

Puwede na ring mag-remit ng cash via text ang inyong mga minamahal sa USA, UK, Italy, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, at Bahrain.

Hatid sa inyo ng Globe at ng mga pinagkakatiwalaang partners!

Upcoming Partner

CGNCOM S.r.l
ExpressPadala
A subsidiary of EquitableePCI
FAR EAST EXPRESS REMITTANCE LTD
IREMIT
GLOBAL REMITTANCE
GlobeTel

lphone mo
maki

G-CASH DOMESTIC MONEY TRANSFER

Pwede mo ring i-send phone-to-phone ang G-Cash sa inyong mga minamahal - sa Luzon, Visayas, at Mindanao.

Courier/Money Remittance outlet:

TEAM LBC HARI NG PADALA!

Mga outlets kung saan puwede mag-cash-in at cash-out ng iyong G-CASH:

Globelines Payment Centers

GLOBE TELECOM Business Center Innovations

PERA PADALA

PRIME ASIA PAWNSHOP

Tambunting

Cash-in only:

7-ELEVEN

Serbisyong sigurado sa tulong ng mga pinagkakatiwalaang partners!

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

CITIBANK

EquitablePCI

PNB

SECURITY BANK

WEALTHBANK A DEVELOPMENT BANK

Text G-CASH to 2882

ng great things possible

Globe HANDYPHONE

B

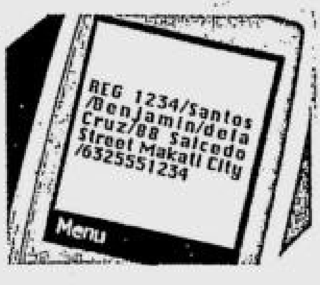
GLOBE GCASH

wallet na ang cellphone mo

HOW DO I ACTIVATE MY G-CASH SERVICE?

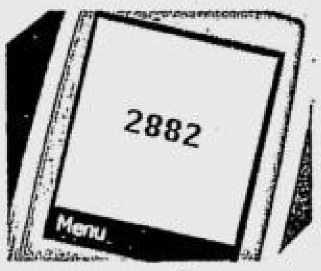
1 To register, type in REG <4-digit M-PIN>/<Mother's Maiden Name >/<First Name>/<Last Name>/<Address>/<telephone no.>

Example: REG 1234/Santos/Benjamin /dela Cruz/88 Salcedo Street Makati City/6325551234



2 Send it to 2882.

You will then receive a text message saying that you have successfully registered.



G-CASH PAYMENTS VIA TEXT

How do I use G-Cash Payments?

FOR OUTLET TRANSACTIONS:
For Outlets that accept G-Cash Payments you will need to send G-Cash from your phone to the phone number of the outlet (or the outlet's frontliner will instruct you on how to send the G-Cash in case they are using a different way to accept the payment).

To pay (from phone-to-phone) type in: <amount to be cashed-out> <M-PIN> and send to 2882+<10-digit number of authorized outlet>

Example: 1000 1234
Send to: 2882917XXXXXXX

FOR ONLINE TRANSACTIONS:
For myAyala SureSeats and other web-based transactions, simply follow instructions on the website on how to pay using your G-Cash.

G-CASH INTERNATIONAL REMITTANCE VIA TEXT

How do I send G-Cash to someone in the Philippines?

- Just go to any Authorized International G-Cash Outlet that accepts cash-in transactions.
- Fill up G-Cash form.
- Please present a valid I.D.
- Pay the cash-in fee to the frontliner.
- Frontliner will send the G-Cash to your beneficiary and give you an acknowledgement receipt (A.R.) for the transfer and an official receipt (O.R.) for the processing fee.

How do I cash-out my G-Cash?
Go to a Globe Business Center or any Authorized G-Cash Outlet.

G-CASH DOMESTIC MONEY TRANSFER VIA TEXT

How do I send G-Cash to a Globe or Touch Mobile subscriber?

- Just go to any Globe Business Center, Globelines Payment and Service Center or any Authorized G-Cash Outlet that accepts cash-in transactions.
- Fill up G-Cash form.
- Please present a valid I.D.
- Pay the cash-in fee to the frontliner.
- Frontliner will send G-Cash to your beneficiary and give you an acknowledgement receipt (A.R.) for the transfer and an official receipt (O.R.) for the processing fee.

Using my cellphone, how do I send G-Cash to a Globe Handyphone or Touch Mobile subscriber?

For as long as you have G-Cash in your cellphone, just send the following message: <amount to be sent> <M-PIN> to 2882 + <10-digit number of recipient>

Example: 1000 1234
Send to: 2882917XXXXXXX

How do I transfer G-Cash to my phone?

- Just go to any Authorized G-Cash Outlet which accepts cash-in transactions.
- Show the required identification to frontliner.
- Give the frontliner the cash plus processing fee.
- The outlet will send the G-Cash to your mobile phone number directly.

How do I cash-out my G-Cash?

- Go to a Globe Business Center or any Authorized G-Cash Outlet.

A. CASHING OUT AT A GLOBE BUSINESS CENTER:

- Fill up a G-Cash form.
- Present required identification to the frontliner.
- You then pay the processing fee.
- Frontliner will write down a unique transaction code on the service form.
- You then send the following message to 2882: CASHOUT <amount> <M-PIN> <unique transaction code>
  Example: CASHOUT 1000 1234 55558888
- Frontliner will then print an A.R. for the cash-out and an O.R. for the processing fee.
- You will then be given the cash.

B. CASHING OUT AT AN AUTHORIZED OUTLET (mobile phone to mobile phone)

- Fill up a G-Cash form.
- Present required identification to the frontliner.
- Pay the processing fee.
- Frontliner will show you the outlet's authorized mobile number.
- You then send the following message:<amount to be cashed-out> <M-PIN> to 2882+<10 digit number of authorized outlet>
- Frontliner will then print an A.R. for the cash-out and an O.R. for the processing fee.
- You will then be given the cash.

NOTE: Cash-in and cash-out fees will depend on each outlet.

Processing fee for Globe Business Center and Globelines Payments and Service Center is a flat fee of P10 for any transaction below P1,000. For transactions above P1,000, fee is 1% of the amount.
Example: P10 for P1,000 amount

Text G-CASH to 2882

NOTE: All G-Cash transactions via SMS cost Php1.00.

G-CASH 24-HOUR HOTLINE NUMBERS:
2882 (toll-free) from your Globe Handyphone or Touch Mobile.
739-2882 from a landline in Manila.
1-800-8-2882882 (toll-free) domestic from any Globelines phone.

making great things possible Globe HANDYPHONE